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of Canara Devasthanam Act
the Local Boards Amendment
Amendment

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FURTHER PAPERS

No	Department	Date.	G.O. No.	Department	Date.

10-11-3

Des. 2760-1
11-11-33

Kodialbail,
Mangalore,
8th November 1933.

From

M.R.Ry. K.R.Karant, Avl., B.A., LL.B.,
Honorary Secretary, The South Kanara
Landholders' Association,
MANGALORE.

To

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir K.Krishnan Nair,
B.A., B.L.,
Law Member, Government of Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a memorandum from the above Association as directed by its Executive Committee at their meetings held on 22nd October last.

I am also directed to inform you that its President, Diwan Bahadur B.Mahabala Hegde, B.A., B.L., has been authorised to interview your goodself and supplement the memorandum on such points as may be necessary.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

K. V. Karant

A Memorandum from the Landholders' Association, South Kanara, Mangalore.

To

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir M.Krishnan Nair,
Law Member, Government of Madras.

Sir,

Subject: Forest--Reserves in South Kanara--Withdrawal of concessions.

Since Government have taken the extreme step of withdrawing the concessions or privileges which the ryots enjoyed hitherto in 12 reserve forests of the North Mangalore Division and 1 reserve forest in the South Mangalore Division of this district since 1st April 1933, several meetings of the ryots have been held and memorials and petitions have been submitted to Government from various quarters including this Association protesting against the said withdrawal but the Association keenly regrets to find that Government have not yet been pleased to cancel the same.

2. Amongst the various meetings so held since 1st April 1933 an important meeting was held under the auspices of this Association at Kirimanjeshwar in the Kundapur Taluk on the 8th of October last, when Mr. A.B.Shetty, M.L.C., a member of the Executive Committee of the Association, and Mr. K.R.Karant, its Secretary, were specially present. 140 ryots representing as many as 21 villages of the north and north-west portions of the Kundapur Taluk were present. The question of the withdrawal was discussed in all its aspects and the resolutions passed at the said meeting have amongst others been considered by the Executive Committee of the Association at their meetings held at Mangalore on the 15th and the 22nd of

October 1933. The tale of woe and sufferings expressed, at the said meeting of Kirimanjeshwar by the ryots present on account of the withdrawal of the concessions, to the said representatives of the Association was truly heartrending

3. The Committee has at the said meetings also discussed the reports of the Conservator of Forests and the Chief Conservator printed and laid on the table of the Legislative Council with reference to the supplementary question to question No.75 asked at the meeting of the Council on 2-8-1935. After deeply considering the above as well as the various representations received by the Association regarding the withdrawal from the ryots of the concerned areas the Executive Committee have authorised the Secretary to submit this Memorandum on behalf of the Association to Government and have also authorised Diwan Bahadur B.Mahabala Hegde, B.A., B.L., President of the Association, to interview the Hon'ble the Law Member at Madras and supplement this Memorandum as may be necessary.

M 36-39 (F)
Go 1037
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4. It is to be highly regretted that in the matter of the withdrawal of the concessions which has hit hard the lives and well-being, or more truly the struggle for existence, of thousands of families solely depending upon cultivation in the numerous villages in which the aforesaid reserves are situated, and in which the said concessions have been withdrawn since 1st April 1935, and even though the position of the ryots has become almost desperate, both on account of the withdrawal as also on account of the keen economic depression prevailing in the district, Government should be turning a deaf ear to all

representations. It is indeed sad that in this matter the one-sided reports of the Forest Department which, it is respectfully submitted, appears to have absolutely no feeling towards the ryots concerned, and the sole objects of which appear to be to advance the theory and science of Forest Conservancy and its revenue regardless of all practical considerations, should outweigh with Government the fortunes and miseries of thousands of these cultivators.

5. In taking the drastic step which Government have done, the Association respectfully ask Government whether they have seriously considered the following questions. Have they cared to make an enquiry on the spot as to how many thousands of families are depending for their livelihood entirely upon agriculture in the numerous villages in which the concessions are now closed? Have these people any other means of substituting the numerous needs, which till now they have been getting from these reserves, for the vast quantities of green and dry leaves for their manure, grass for the fodder of their cattle, fuel for their agricultural and domestic needs, etc.? Has any one, before closing these concessions, as if by a stroke of the pen, ever practically demonstrated to them or shown to them there are other ways in which their needs could be satisfied? Will Government be pleased even now to ascertain the thousands of rupees in the shape of land revenue and cesses which they are obliged to pay Government year after year? Is it not worthwhile making an enquiry as to how they are to cultivate their lands in the absence of these vital necessaries. make a living & cultivation out of it, and yet continue to pay assessment to the Revenue Department? Are the Forest Department of Government and its own Revenue Department so divorced

from each other that the former does not care as to how the latter is to collect its revenue? Have Government ever paid serious heed to the ever increasing demands of more and more population living in these areas which are the coastal parts of the district? The reserves in question were constituted some 30 or 40 years ago at a time when population was very much less and the needs of cultivation also much less than now. Since that time both have increased, if the Association is not mistaken, by more than 50 per cent. and yet in all this period, far from trying to meet the ever increasing demands of both, making more and more lands available out of these reserves for the purposes, and absolute purposes too, of cultivation and also lessening the rigours of the forest laws to suit such needs, the attempt seems to be the other way, namely, to curtail cultivation, and to increase the extent of reserves in these thickly populated areas, to afforest for the first time even today fresh reserves in them and thereby render cultivation almost impossible. Will Government be pleased to order a survey, even on an approximate scale, if not for all the villages concerned, at least for a few typical amongst them of the various hardships and miseries and losses which are caused to the ryots of these villages, day-in and day-out, on account of the Reserve Forests of the Government? How many thousands of valuable cattle which is the best portion of the wealth of these cultivators is being destroyed year after year by the tigers and panthers abounding in these forests! In practically every field growing a crop in the villages concerned a good portion of the same is devoured and devastated by the wild bores, monkeys and various other kinds of animals that are infesting the forests and which are increasing in numbers year by year. And what of the enormous sufferings these poor people are put to on account

(3) of the ever increasing malaria which has become a permanent factor in these regions! Will Government be pleased to call for figures, let alone of cattle, of men, women and children in the villages concerned, apart from other affected portions of the district, where the case is much worse, (4) where not even human life is safe, of the men, women and children who are killed or mauled by the tigers and panthers in these areas? Particularly in the Kundapoor Taluk, since the last 6 months, this trouble seems to have increased all of a sudden and it is high time that Government took note of these and allied matters. The Association has heard of a society ~~(an Association)~~ being formed at Madras for the preservation of wild life. Is it not far more important that something is done to set a foot an organisation for the preservation of the very lives of these cultivators and of their cattle ~~who~~ which after all have some claim upon the Government?

6. Quite recently a much revered and respected Catholic Priest living in one of the villages, wherein these concessions have been withdrawn, has written as follows to a member of the Association:--".....They (the menials of the Forest Department) give too much trouble to the villagers and extort money and if their thirst is not quenched make false cases and add to the weight of the forest laws which are already unbearable. I am not a prophet. Yet I can foresee that people will not be able to live around these reserves after some years. Their crops are destroyed by the wild animals. There live-stock is reduced by the panthers and tigers. Yet the Government is merciless. It is a pure tyranny." People sitting at Madras ~~dre~~ or the high placed officials of the Forest Department may laugh at this! And yet, anyone with a heart and who has an intimate knowledge of the forest areas of this district cannot say that the ~~picture~~ condition of things

spoken to ~~if~~ by this sincere and disinterested priest is anything but true and correct. Sir, even worms are said to turn. But it may be only in proverbs. If elsewhere they do not and cannot, is it really worthwhile for the Government to tread and kill them beyond all hope of recovery or redemption? Have the cultivators of this area no claim at all to a mere human existence, let alone a decent one?

7. Dealing specifically with some of the important points noticed by the Conservator of Forests in his report referred to above, he appears to think that these reserves are being used and exploited only by the 'vociferous landlords' and not by the actual cultivators. This is an entirely mistaken idea. The well-to-do land holders who have their own 'hadies' or petty forests, which the Conservator refers to, are few and far between. It is not every ryot in a village, or even a land-lord who has some tenants under him, that can afford to own a 'hadi' in these areas. The hundreds and thousands of petty land-holders or the much more numerous class of the chalgeni tenants (tenants from year to year) have no hadies whatever to draw upon for their requirements. The Association does not believe that it has ever been the case of the Forest Department that the thousands of the villagers, mostly actual cultivators, if not paid coolies, walk every day to and fro anything between 5 to 10 miles, to obtain and carry head-loads of these manure leaves or fuel to sell them to others. If that is not the case and if people have ample leaves in their own hadis, as the Conservator seems to assume, why should these people put themselves to all this trouble?

A 21/36 (E)

8. Another remark of the Conservator is that these

concessions have been largely abused in certain parts of the district. As regards the general charge of abuse, whilst the Association will not deny some abuses here and there which are in the nature of things inevitable, it emphatically denies that it exists to the enormous extent which the Department would try to make out. In fact the Conservator himself admits that to some extent such abuses are inevitable, that the rules are indefinite, that their practical application is more difficult and that therefore some amount of abuse is bound to exist. The Association would however submit that if due and proper allowance is to be made for the large demands of thousands of acres of cultivation that depend solely upon these concessions and for the very great needs of the domestic lives of thousands of families living in these vast areas the so-called abuses are surely not serious. It is rather unfortunate that in considering the question of these abuses the mind of the Conservator should have been prejudiced by the lawlessness of the northern portions of Kundapoor Taluk. One imagines that this has reference to the civil disobedience activities last year in respect of some of these reserves. The Association deeply regrets the activities in respect of such forests by some of the persons concerned. But can anyone say that the wholesale populations of these areas have taken part in these activities? Otherwise it would be wrong to penalise the entire people of these areas for the misguided activities of a few.

9. Speaking of these abuses the Conservator himself admits that in certain parts, as for instance the Mandakole reserve, the abuses of the concessions have greatly abated after the District Forest Officer had an interview with the villagers. The Forest Administration Report for 1930-31, Volume 1, para 113 would show that the forest

village system including the Todar and Hosabettu reserves of the North Mangalore Division has worked satisfactorily. And yet these concessions are withdrawn on 1-4-1933 also in those two reserves. Is it credible that in this short interval extraordinary abuses could have taken place? This Association does not think so.

10. On the other hand there lurks in the mind of the Association a shrewd suspicion that the story of these abuses with respect to most, if not all, of the reserves in question, is really the result of a deliberate change of policy with respect to these reserves by the Forest Department. It has been repeatedly stated in the past on behalf of Government that the reserves in question as well as others called 'Ryots Forests' are intended mainly to supply the agricultural and domestic needs of the ryots residing in their vicinity. On 16-3-1928 Sir Archibald Campbell spoke as follows in the Legislative Council (vide Council proceedings Volume 41, page 242):--"The forests of the province are classified into two classes, the Provincial Forests and the Ryots' Forests. The Provincial Forests include those which it is desirable to work commercially and for which as much revenue as possible could be obtained. The Ryots' Forests are those which are near villages and are not so important commercially but are important to the local people." Said Sir Thomas Moir, some time earlier, in the Legislative Council (vide Council proceedings Volume 35, page 304):- "We do not forget and have never forgotten that its (the Forest Department's) main object is to supply the needs of the people and it must pay attention to the fact that the ryots do require fuel, that they require

timber for houses, that they require implements for agriculture and that they require grazing for their cattle." The words of the memorable resolution of the Government of India on the forest policy of the Government stated so long ago as 1894 are still more clear and stand amidst much of the present trouble and darkness, as a beacon light. It is printed in the Forest Code obviously as the guiding star to the Department. But the present attempt of the Department in closing the concessions altogether in some of the reserves and threatening to close them entirely in all the reserves of this district in the immediate future seems to show as if the wise words of the above resolution are no longer to be respected. In a word, it looks as if so far at any rate the people of this district are concerned, hereafter, the people are to exist entirely at the mercy of the Forest Department and not that the Forest Department is to exist for serving the needs of the people.

11. Even at the risk of repeating the relevent portions of the above resolution the Association craves leave to quote them:--"The needs of communities dwelling on the margin of forest tracts consist mainly in small timber for building, wood for fuel, leaves for manure and for fodder, thorns for fencing, grass and grazing for cattle and edible forest produce for their own consumption. Every reasonable facility should be afforded to the people concerned for the full and easy satisfaction of these needs. It should be distinctly understood that considerations of forest income are to be subordinated to that satisfaction. . . It should also be remembered that, subject to certain conditions to be referred to presently, the claims of cultivation are stronger than the claims of forest preservation. Such res-

trictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the forest or for the better enjoyment of its benefits should be imposed. But no restrictions should be placed upon reasonable local demands merely in order to increase the State revenues. . . The inferior subordinates of the Forest Department are perhaps as reliable as can be expected on the pay which we can afford to give, but their morality is no higher than that of the uneducated class from which they are drawn, while the enormous areas over which they are scattered and the small number of controlling staff render effective supervision most difficult. It is not right in order to protect the grass or grazing dues on plots of wastes scattered over the cultivated district, to put it into the power of an underling to pound or threaten to pound cattle on the plea that they have overstepped the boundary between their owners' field and the next. It is to be distinctly understood that the Government of India do not desire that the grazing should be looked upon primarily as a source of revenue." To close the reserves for the just and necessary satisfaction of the several needs of the cultivators in this district as Government have done by their withdrawal of the concessions since 1st April last, and to threaten to do so in all the reserve forests in the extremely hilly and forest areas of this district is to give the complete go-by to the aforesaid resolution of the Government of India and the openly acknowledged policy of this Government itself hitherto, and it is respectfully submitted, ~~the~~ a clear breach of faith. The attempt on the part of the Forest Department in this district appears to be not to exploit the vast extent of the dense, the first rate and primeval forests situated on the Ghaut and Sub-ghaut regions of this district from one end to the other as they deserve to and ought to be ex-

ploited commercially, but to leave them practically untouched. ~~but~~ and on the other hand to change the ryots' forests which have all along been held out to be ryots' forests where only fuel was to be got into sandalwood and other kinds of exploitation forests, and for this purpose to close them entirely to the people and deny them all their legitimate needs irrespective of all considerations of justice and common humanity. Otherwise what right or justice is there in closing a reserve like the Thodar or Hosabettu situated amidst thousands of cultivators into sandalwood forests? Will the Forest Department be pleased to state the total net revenue that they have been able to provide the Government with ever since the Department was started in respect of the reserves with which we are now concerned as against the revenue paid in this period in the shape of land revenue and cesses by the people in the villages concerned and vastly more than this the terrible and stupendous losses which the people have suffered by reason of the devastation of their cattle and crops, direct and indirect, solely due to the proximity of the reserves in question? If figures are forth-coming it will no doubt be found that the former is practically nothing compared with the latter.

12. Before leaving the question of these abuses finally, this Association has repeatedly represented in the past that there is no use of compiling an impractical list of as many as 55 species of prohibited and classified trees from which leaves and twigs shall not be removed but which list cannot be known or remembered by even many of the forest guards or Foresters and which has been compiled irrespective of the sufficiency or otherwise of other species that would be necessary to satisfy the legitimate demands of the cultivators.

13. Whilst the Forest Department appears to have been always anxious to point out and emphasise abuses of concessions on the part of the illiterate and ignorent villagers, will the Department show an equal anxiety to look into the record of its own subordinates who have been, to some extent at least, responsible for some of these abuses? It is an open secret that in almost every part of the district wherever there are the reserves the villagers are practically compelled to submit themselves to almost a systematised form of corruption either for the ~~excessive~~ very use of these concessions on the part of ~~some individuals~~ the people or for being saved from the tyranny of false and manipulated forest cases. In fact even in the case of the very reserves which are now closed and which form the main object of this memorandum one could find that still certain people in many of these villages are being allowed to remove manure leaves and fuel, but only the charges levied are much more excessive than used to be extorted in the past. The Association does not wish it to be understood that it sympathises in the least with the ryots who have recourse to such unlawful means though it cannot but regret the existence or circumstances which drive them to such a course. To the Forest Department it would, however, say that some amount of self-introspection would not be entirely out of place.

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14. There is one matter in the report of the Chief Conservator of Forests referred to above which would require some elucidation. It appears therefrom that the proposal is to close the reserves for these concessions in the interior of the district and then to work towards the sea where the demand is admittedly the heaviest. But unfortunately the reserves now closed are all the coastal reserves and not the interior ones at all. Every one of these reserves is situated as already stated

3 at 39 (E)

above amidst largely cultivated and thickly populated villages. How happens it then that the process instead of commencing from the interior towards the sea is working in the opposite direction?

15. There is one remark, if it cannot be called also an argument, of the Conservator in his report referred to above which requires an answer. He says that South Kanara is setting up awkward precedents and wants to know as to why it should get the Concessions free. Herein lies most of the misfortune of this district. The Forest Officers who come to this district and are transferred almost every year or every other year are absolutely ignorant of the past history of this district and are equally out of touch with the habits, needs and requirements of its people. Anyone who wants to do some justice to the people of this district, belated though it be, would do well to peruse and study its past history from the memorable minute of the Hon'ble Mr. Robinson, 2nd Member of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd December 1870. Therein he will find traced most authoritatively how step by step after the advent of the British rule in this district in 1799 the valuable and immemorial private rights of the people of this district were confiscated and deprived one by one. To Mr. Robinson and to some of the Collectors of South Kanara quoted in that minute who put up a stubborn fight for the Kanara cultivator as against the inroads of the enthusiasts of the Forest Department on the one hand who appear to have existed even at that time, and those of the Revenue Department on the other, the ryots of Kanara shall ever be grateful though it must be admitted that all along it has been a losing fight! Therein one will find how private rights in land in this district were in no way different from those in the sister district of Malabar. The only difference in

he ultimate result appears to be largely due to the act that whilst in Kanara the people begged and petitioned and begged, and lost, the people of Malabar appear to have taken to stronger and more convincing methods and won. In the said minute and in the proceedings* of the Board of Revenue dated 21st March 1871 which conceded the substantial justice of the people's claim urged by Mr. Robinson, will be found a chapter both as to the forest as well as the land revenue administration of this district which exposes the systematic confiscation of private rights and privileges which had begun prior thereto but has gone on ever since and continues to do even today. Let it be clearly remembered that the concessions so-called are after all the survivals of some of these old rights and privileges. It will be well for the Forest Department to remember that the forests in question were being enjoyed by the agriculturists ~~of the~~ vicinity for hundreds of years prior to their reservation for the satisfaction of all their domestic and agricultural needs and that these concessions are not ~~some~~ mere favo created and bestowed for the first time by Government. This was expressly admitted by Government in their answer to question No.650 asked in the Legislative Council on 11-10-1924 by the member for South Kanara, Mr. B.Mahabala Hegde (now Diwan Bahadur). It was stated by Government that the reserve forests of this district of the IV class numbering 59 were being enjoyed prior to such reservation by the agriculturists for the above purposes. The fact is that, except for the immemorial forests on the Ghaut section of this district, most of the rest of the lands including the forests therein were the properties of the people. States the Imperial Gazetteer of India (1886) Volume 7, page 376):--"The forest land is of vast extent, but the exact area is unknown, as the district (South

* P. 113-120 (E)

P. 109 (A)

P. 50 (A)

Kanara) has never been surveyed. Most of the land is private property, and only a few forests near the Ghauts are owned by Government." The holdings or 'wargs' of the people included not only the actual lands under cultivation but also the surrounding tracts of hilly wastes which grow the necessary grass, fuel, green manure and other materials so necessary for the cultivation of the wet lands and gardens and forming a necessary adjunct thereto. Previous to the advent of the British rule and for nearly a century thereafter the assessment payable to Government on such an holding was fixed with respect to its entire extent and not merely with respect to the cultivated portion thereof. The proprietors called 'wargdars' or 'mulgars' had in their possession what were called 'mulpattas' or 'title deeds', some of which were found. in 1800 by Mr. Munro, the first British Collector of the district, to be even 300 or 400 years old and which gave to their owners the most complete form of private property ever known in any country. What happened subsequently to these mulpattas and to the valuable rights of which they were The muniments of title is too sad a tale to recount. Nor would all that be necessary in this connection except to inform the high Officials of the Forest Department as to why Kanara alone enjoys these concessions free and why it should be free hereafter also. Suffice it to say that many of these private forests were reserved as Government forests ~~without~~ paying practically little or no compensation. In their place, as shadows for the substance, were granted these forest concessions in the reserves on the one hand and what are called 'kumki' privileges on the other. The former are now tottering whilst with the many inroads that have been made upon ~~them~~ The latter from time to time ~~are~~ They have now become as precarious as ever. It looks as if all that one can do is to appeal to the sense of justice of Govern-

ment, and to Heaven above in the last resort!

16. Having said this much the Association would like to assure Government of their readiness to co-operate with them in their attempts to see that the concessions in question are used as fairly and properly as may practicably be possible. The Association feels that the people who benefit by these concessions should to some extent at least be prepared to come forward and share the responsibility of the protection of the forests concerned. The question of the working of Panchayats for this purpose has been both put to the people as well as considered by the Executive Committee of the Association but unfortunately it is found from past experience in this district as well as by the local peculiarities that the Panchayats do not work satisfactorily at all. One chief reason for it is that unlike as in the East Coast Districts where the villagers live in a centralised and compact area and can easily watch one another, here all the district over one would find houses and properties spread out in almost every nook and corner. Some villagers will be found living on the edge of a forest whilst there will be others living even 4 or 5 miles away It is extremely difficult for people to work in such conditions as a Panchayat and assume the entire responsibility of the protection of a forest either from the abuse of the concessions or from fires. The Association has however asked some of the villagers concerned and they have agreed to form some form of vigilence committees to undertake the responsibility of reporting cases of abuse to the concerned Officers of the Forest Department and to keep a general watch on the proper use of the concessions by the people. This was expressly put to the ryots assembled at the Kirimanjeshwar meeting and approved by them. The Association would undertake in the first instance to organise such Committees of responsi-

ble ryots with a view to achieve the above purpose.

17. The Association would earnestly urge upon Government the imperative need of lessening the rigors of ıe forest laws in respect of the reserves in question ıd also in similarly situated reserves with a view to eet and adjust the increasing demands of cultivation. arger extents of lands from out of these reserves must e made available to the people ~~ryot/etc~~ who are ever inreasing population. If the Forest Department, situated .s it is, cannot be made to change their angle of vision, he Association would urge very strongly to put all such ·eserve forests under the Revenue Department as the latıer are in touch with the people, ~~no~~ know their difficulties, ınd are responsible for the timely collection of thousands)f rupees in the shape of land revenue from the people of these areas. If this cannot be done, the Association would earnestly press upon Government the need for the constitution of a representative committee for the whole district in which the Forest Department, the Collector of the district and responsible non-official representatives)f the ryots who are affected by the reserves in the district might be represented. This Committee might meet once or twice a year and discuss the hardships of the ryots whether with respect to the concessions or otherwise or the charges of abuses that may be brought against the people by the Department and thereby exercise a proper influence on the ryot population concerned.

18. Next the Association would urge some modifications of the rules governing these concessions so that they may be capable of practical use and enforcement and may satisfy the particular and special needs of particular localities. For instance, as already stated, there is no use in sticking fast to the entire list of the 35

species prohibiting people from removing ~~their~~ its leaves and twigs. The number should be reduced to a reasonable limit, regard being had to the sufficiency or otherwise of particular species in particular localities. Or again take the case of the removal of undergrowth in coastal reserves up to a limit of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings or half a mile in the case of others. As the Conservator remarks in his report referred to above this rule has not been of much practical utility. As the Conservator observes the main object of this concession is to keep away the wild beasts from the cultivation. But surely the means of an average cultivator do not allow him to clear away all this wide and indefinite belt. What would really achieve this object ~~but~~ and which would be well within his means, and at the same time make the concession incapable of abuse is to so modify it as to permit him to clear away a belt of say only 50 yards in the first instance allowing him to cut and remove all kinds of shrubs and trees, subject of course to the claim of the Department for such trees cut; and if he so clears that belt, to allow him to cut another 50 yards with similar conditions. The exact form of the rule proposed above might be altered after discussion but on the lines indicated the rule will go a great way to reduce the devastation of crops by the wild animals particularly the wild-boars and monkeys.

19. In conclusion the Association begs to urge upon Government the imperative need of cancelling forthwith the withdrawal of the concessions and ~~xxxxx~~ to see that the legitimate needs of the people are met as far as possible and are not altogether denied and also to take on hand the changes proposed herein as early as

possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

K. R. Kamath

8.11.1933

Secretary,
The South Kanara Landholders' Association, Mangalore.

P To

Mangalore,

15- 11- 1933.

From

Diwan Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde, B.A.,B.L.,
President, Land-holders Association,
South Kanara.

To

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur
Sir M. Krishnan Nair, KT.,
Law Member, Government of Madras,
Fort St. George, Madras.

S i r,

As personally directed on the 12th of this month, I beg to submit the following extracts from the case reported in I. L. R. 28 Madras page 257 onwards. This is a case where the Revenue system of South Kanara District and the rights and privileges of the land-holders are discussed.

Page 259 - Quotation from the Imperial Gazetteer of India Vol. VII page 381.

"Almost all land (in South Kanara) is private property, some unclaimed waste and lands escheated to Government being the only exception. The whole is divided into estates (wargs), which include cultivated, cultivable, and waste land; but only the cultivated portion is assessed".

Page 260 - " In other words, used at page 16 of the same volume, the Goverment

has attempted to'gradually extinguish proprietory rights'. This is a candid avowal of policy, but the policy is opposed to the opinions, the intentions and express directions of thehighest authorities".

"Writing to the Madras Board of Revenue on the 9th November 1800, Sir Thomas Munroe described Kanara as a province 'where almost all land is private property derived from gift or purchase or descent from an antiquity too rem te to be traced' and in a report dated 4th August 1807 (Page 261) Mr. Thackeray subsequently a member of the Madras Government, said 'no person who has seen Kanara or considered the subject can doubt the antiquity and validity of the title of the Kanara land-lords; and any Government that should attempt to overturn it would act like the French Government whe it confiscated the private estates of the nobility and the Church'. Then in their despatch of the 17th December 1813 to the Government of Madras, the Court of Directors declare that in Kanara 'we have no property in the land to confer with the exception of some forfeited estates' while in their 41st paragraph of their minute dated 5th January 1818 the Madras Board of Revenue stated 'accept to unclaimed waste or to estates escheated for want of heirs, it does not appear that the Government in Kanara at any time possessed or even pretended to the

smallest right to the property in the land' ".

By these and other observations quoted in the early portion of the judgment, the District Judge decided in favour of the land-holders claim to the forests. But the High Court decided that though the land-holders are entitled to the use of these forests for agricultural and domestic purposes, decided against the private ownership of the forests in question.

I quote below some of the findings of the Honourable Judges recognising our claims:-

Page 270 "On the other hand many of the early reports indicate that patches of wood-land and waste were not infrequently regarded as included with the cultivated land in the holdings of the wargdars or land-holders. It cannot, therefore, be held that such patches of wood-land or waste when interspersed with, or adjacent to, the cultivation of a warg, may not be a part of the warg . . . . . Such forest is for many years easily distinguishable from primaeval forests and is known as secondary growth. In the case of secondary growth the presumption will usually be that it belongs to some private owner, but this again may be rebutted, as for instance, by showing that it is part of a warg that was abondended or forfeited or escheated to Government...

Pages 277 and 278 may kindly be read. The observations contained therein clearly set out the rights and privileges of the agriculturists to these secondary forests up to the netticut limits on either side of the valley.

Pages 291 and 292 may again be kindly read especially Mr. Maltby's proclamation of August 1854 quoted there. It clearly proves that the land-holders are entitled to watch the forests surrounding their lands and to use such forests for agricultural and domestic purposes. But the proclamation says: "Yet on this pretext the forest should not be cut from the bottom (roots) and sold."

Page 301 last para in the Judgment,

> "All this evidence shows that the claimants, though using the leaves and manure of the forest for the benefit of their warg lands, did so not by reason of any proprietory right in the forest, but in accordance with the well-known kumki and netticut privileges sanctioned by Government in favour of wargs adjacent to the Government forests".

From the above quotations and other observations in the judgment, it is clear that the land-holders in Kanara are entitled to the free and unrestricted users of these forests for agricultural and domestic purposes. The question of the so-called abuses, therefore, does not arise. It must be conceded that from time immemorial these forests have been used for agricultural and domestic purposes without let or hinderance. We are not referring her

to the primaeval forests far away from cultivated area. The reservation of these ryots forests under the Forest Act from about 1882 has deprived the agriculturists their main aids to agriculture.

Government have clearly admitted that before reservation the land-holders have been enjoying these forests without any restriction.(Vide answer to Question No. 650 dated 11th October 1924 asked by Mr. B. Mahabala Hegde, then M. L. C.).

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

President,
Landholders Association,
South Kanara.

Secretary, the South Kanara Landholders' Associaylon, Mangalore
Ref. No. 52, dated 13th December 1933 :-

I beg to submit herewith a true copy of the Proceedings of the First South Kanara Landholders' Conference held at Puttu on 3-12-1933, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, M.L.C., presiding, and to request that Government may be pleased to take proper and speedy action on the resolutions contained therein.

I beg to invite your particular attention to resolution No. IV therein.

Enclosure.

Proceedings of the Fi rst Conference of the landholders of South Kanara held at 5 P.M. of Sunday, the 3rd December 1933, in the ~~premises~~ premises of the Higher Elementary School at Puttur.

The gathering consisted of more than 1000 landholders representing all taluks of the district.

Amongst the prominent persons present were the following :

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti was unanimously voted to the chair.

Dewan Bahadur B.M.Hegde, Chairman of the Reception Committee read his welcome address.

Sami Venkatachalam Chetti delivered his presidential speech which was translated into Kanarese by Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao.

The following resolutions were thereupon passed unanimously.

IV. (a) That this Conference wholeheartedly suppo the memorandum recently submitted by the Secretary of the

P 2-20 supra.

of the forest concessions in the district and submits to Government that it is entirely erroneous to call the rights in question "concessions". They are really the immemorial rights and privileges of the land-holders of this district. The Conference therefore most emphatically submits that any infringement of the said rights will make cultivation in this district practically impossible. Whilst deploring the recent withdrawal of the "concessions" in some of the reserves and the threatened withdrawal in others this conference requests Government to cancel the order of withdrawal at once.

(b) This conference views with alarm the attempts by the Forest department to afforest fresh reserves near highly cultivated areas round about the village of Puncha in the Puttur taluk. The conference requests Government not to create fresh reserves in the district. On the other hand it requests Government to disafforest the coastal reserves and make lands available for cultivation to the increasing population of the coastal parts of the distri

(c) This conference desires to bring to the notice of the Government that great hardship is being caused to the ryots residing in the vicinity of the reserve forests of this district by entirely closing the reserves for grazing in case of accidental fires to the reserves for which the ryots are not responsible and by charging rent for channel water flowing from the reserves to lands under cultivatio

(d) This conference submits to Government that on account of the increasing density and forest growth in the reserves, the areas available for grazing are becoming less and less. This conference submits that the cattle in this district, particularly bovine, are small and puny compared with the cattle of the East Coast districts. The grazing fees on the large number of cattle kept by a ryot mostly for purposes of manure or cultivation fall very heavily on the poor ryots. This conference therefore requests Government to cancel the fees and make grazing totally free or at least charge nominal fees.

(e) This conference views with grave concern the solicitude of Government to preserve wild life in the province which in this district at any rate is causing irreparable hardship, loss and misery to h uman life, cattle and crops of the cultivators of the district.

Proposed by Mr. J.A.Saldanha, Ex-M.L.C.,
Seconded by Rev. Father Siqueira, and
Supported by Mr. Brahmavar Timmannachar,
Mr. Bellare Narayana Sheka, and
Mr. Kilar Ramachandrayya.

The resolution was put to vote and carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
15 FEB 1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mangalore,
10- 2- 1934.

From

Diwan Bahadur B. Mahabala Hedge, B.A.,B.L.,
President,
S.K.Landholders' Association,
Mangalore.

To

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir M.
Krishnan Nair, Kt.,
Law Member,
Government of Madras.

S i r,

You will kindly remember that on 12th November 1933, I had the honour of interviewing you in the matter of a Memorandum relating to the Forest Grievances (viz. withdrawal of conces sions). You were pleased to tell me that after calling for papers, an urgent reference would be made to the Collector with a view to get a report. The Collector tells us that no communication from the Government has been received.

The grievances are real and unbearable. In some parts, especially in Coondapur, paddy cultivation, cattle grazing and domestic life have become very difficult. The Collector is expected to camp in Coondapur next month.

I, therefore, humbly request that Government may be pleased to investigate into the matter and give relief to the suffering and hard-pressed agricultural population. Delay may affect kist collection in some affected parts.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

President.

Dev Dept

30

AS

The main file has been sent to the C.C. of Forests vide this Dept's no. 2760 I/33-1 dt 27-1-34. His receipt may be awaited. (He is being reminded separately)

7-2-34.

RC
19.2.34.

JaR
19.2.34

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
20 MAR 1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

South Kanara Collector's Office,

Camp: Wandse, dated 17th March 1934.

From

E. M. Gawne, Esq, I.C.S.,

Collector of South Kanara.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Development Department,

M a d r a s.

S i r,

Forests--Reserve Forests--South Kanara--Withdrawal of concessions from ryots --Memorandum of the Landholders' Association, South Kanara.

I understand from Mr. Minchin, Conservator of Forests, that the Government desire a joint report from him and me with regard to the withdrawal of concessions in Reserve Forests. In view of the Memorandum of the Landholders' Association which had been presented to Government at the end of 1933, I was doubtful whether the Government wished that we should also traverse the arguments put forward in that Memorandum, which raises several points which are now generally held to be res judicata. I had myself received no communication from Government in the matter and my information as to what Government require was derived from Mr. Minchin. He has now informed me that the Government do not wish the Memorandum dealt with in detail but wish to have a joint report from us as to the result of our tour in the Coondapur Taluk in January.

As it is not possible for Mr. Minchin to meet me just at present for putting together a joint report he has sent me some notes which I attach. I have also added a note of my own. The matter was discussed at length on our last camp together and I am in agreement with what Mr. Minchin has put on record.

Your obedient servant,

Kanara District.

by Mr A.F Minchin
Conservator of Forests

The Conservator and Collector of South Kanara camped at Vandse from January 8th to 16th. The Collector was -- accompanied by Revenue staff including Tahsildar. The object of the tour had been to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions, the Collector's establishment having told the populace in advance that this was the object.

2. Near Vandse is Mudaregudde Reserve in which concessions have been withdrawn since April 1933. No complaints were brought forward. Nor indeed was it to be expected; as in these inland reserve localities the vegetation in unreserves; kumaki and private land is abundant and there never has been any - pressure on the reserve.

However the Collector received three petitioners who came from Baindur and Kirimanjeshwar. (These were gentlemen who have generally appeared to voice local grievances in connection with forests.) I understand that they did not relish the idea of being questioned individually.

3. Mr. Gawne, the Collector; Mr. Griffith, the District Forest Officer; myself; and a legal gentleman from Mangalore (Mr. Lobo) organised beats in the local forests to try to kill a local man-killing panther that has killed 30 people and has become a serious menace on a tract of about 50 sq miles. We spent most of the days in this pursuit, and the villagers of the locality threw themselves into the business with eagerness. We had some 50 volunteers beaters daily and sometimes as many as 41 guns, local muzzle-loaders in addition to our own armament. We took turns to accompany the beaters ourselves; and the Collector and the District Forest Officer lent weapons to individuals; so we got on friendly terms with the villagers. Yet throughout the visit we were not addressed at all on the subject of any forest grievance.

4. We examined systematically the reserves suspected of harbouring the panther: our desire being (in case of a kill occurring) to have enough familiarity with the country to organise beats successfully. Actually the panther has not killed since the end of November when it killed a woman and it may have died a natural death.

From Vandse we moved camp to Kirimanjeshwar.

5. Kirimanjeshwar was indicated for purposes of our quest because in Mr. Heggade's report he singles it out. describing the plight of the cultivators as " really pitiful". The object was to see examples of hardship connected with the lack of leaf manure for cultivation. The practice in cultivation in South Kanara is to ~~cultivate~~ collect green leaf in the rainy weather principally and at other times to collect dry fallen leaves. Women and children collect dry leaf in baskets and carry it to the stalls in which the cultivators keep their cattle stall-fed for the sake of manure. (I have always been told by deputations that this collection of dry leaf is what they set the most store by. Hence ~~located~~ coupes are no use to them: they must have the run of whole reserves etc. etc.)

The cattle are bedded down on leaf-litter on which succeeding layers are superimposed. The leaf-litter absorbs urine and droppings; and at intervals the whole collection is removed to a backyard or field where it is stacked ready for being dug into the fields.

6. On the morning succeeding our arrival, we visited the fields of Ulluru. The Tahsildar had been told to select for our inspection a really distressed locality, i.e., a village most deficient in resources for securing its leaf.

We entered a very extensive paddy-flat on which, it being January, a crop of horsegram was being raised.

Cultivators working nearby gathered round and spoke of their hardships for lack of leaf and the Revenue Inspector put before us the case of the villagers. Particularly our

attention was called to the poor condition of the [illegible] crop. It is to be remarked that this is a locality close to the sea and the soil is extremely light and sandy. It gives therefore an impression of unfertility. We were not actually impressed by the poorness of the said crop. The cultivator concerned called on Heaven to witness to the impossibility of getting a good crop without manure.

As we were moving from this field, some manure protruding from the ground met Mr. Griffith's eye; and closer examination revealed that the ground had actually been manured with leaf manure comparatively recently, and by no means sparsely This checked slightly the flow of representations.

7. Mr. Gawne led us then into the adjoining village. We entered all the cattle stalls that we came to to see whether there was shortage of leaf-litter in the stalls, to see to what extent green leaf was mixed with the dry; and to verify the various species of leaves that were used for preference.

8. During our progress a local gentleman called (I think) Mr. Ananda Chetty spoke authoritatively on behalf of the villagers; and left us in no doubts about the hardships from which they suffered; but as to where we could see cattle sheds deficient in leaf manure he was not so positive When visiting Todar locality last year the District Forest Officer and I came to the conclusion that hardship for owners of kumaki lands was most unlikely: that cultivators without kumaki lands could get their requirements easily from unreserves: and that the people who really were likely to experience hardship were those, who being without influence, were prevented by stronger neighbours from availing themselves of leaf from the unreserves. We were in fact told at Todar that there is a practice by influential ryots of assuming a claim over a piece of unreserve and excluding other villagers.

9. Leaving the villages we climbed the hill-top to get a general view, and see what proportion of the country was

paddy field requiring manure, and what proportion was private forest or unreserve or reserved forest. We saw that the -- greater part of the locality bears forest growth, although in unreserve portions it has been chopped and cut about and - reduced to somewhat low dimensions. We then went towards Herur reserve passing on our way through some specimens of private forest, i.e. kumaki, and we saw that a watchman was kept in charge; and that the protection was excellent and the condition of the treegrowth very flourishing. This is in fact a locality in which treegrowth can easily be prompted in almost any poor ground, unprofitable for cultivation. There is no district in the Presidency where the fact is better realised by the rural inhabitants.

At one point in the unreserve, the well-cared for appearance of the treegrowth was commented upon by us. The Revenue Inspector replied that it so happened this land had been proposed by him for allotment to local Adidravidas.

This brought Ananda Chetty to his feet and he expressed himself vigorously about the inequity of this gift to the Adidravidas, protesting that for generations his family had " conserved" this piece of unreserve or communal ground.

" Conserved" in this case means utilised and protected from use by other villagers: and the exclusion of others from land that he pays Government nothing for and has no real claim to is entirely illegal. There was thus confirmation of what we had had been told at Todar; and to which I referred above, namely that the more powerful ryots " jump claims" on pieces of unreserve (i.e. communal land) and keep out their weaker brethren; but are strong advocates of the free use of Reserved Forests for all the population.

On our return to the camp, the Collector pressed the Tahsildar to show us instances of hardship.

10. On the following day we visited another village, Nandanavana said to be suffering specially from lack of manure-leaf. The Collector had impressed on villagers and on his own

who were badly off; not merely to be told generalisations about hardships. But our inspection on this day was no more successful than before, so far as finding hard cases was concerned. In every cattle stall that we visited there were ample supplies of litter and in the fields stacks of manure waiting to be used.

11. Incidentally the Collector took every opportunity of telling the cultivators how much loss of virtue the manure suffers when according to the local practice it is left in the Sun and Rain unprotected. The advantage of erecting a rough thatched pandal over manure heaps was explained.

12. Still entreating our guides to show us examples of cattle stalls deficient in leaf we were led away half a mile by an individual who claimed that his cattle had to stand on the bare ground. We found however that they were being penned in a field while elsewhere a new stable was being built. This therefore failed to convince.

13. Within 3 or 4 miles of this village is a reserve Kursegudde in which we have more than once proposed to the villagers to establish a coupe in which leaf might be cut. The proposal never has aroused enthusiasm. We are always given a number of reasons (none of them convincing) why it is out of the question for villagers to make use of such a coupe.

In this locality i.e., close to the coast north of Coondapoor, many acres of forest are clear-felled by forest coupe contractors. We have always expressed to deputations our wonder that people short of leaf manure should not get from these coupes either the green leaf on the branches of the felled trees, or dry leaf collected from the ground. The coupe contractors say that nobody approaches them to be allowed to take such leaf; although they are only too ready to dispose of it.

4. The general up-shot of our visit was that when Mr. Hegde speaks of the pitiful condition of the people round

Kirimanjeshwar somebody has been misrepresenting matters to him. But we are far from claiming that because no satisfactory instances of hardship were brought to our notice in Kirimanjeshwar and Vandse localities that therefore no hardships or " hard cases " exist.

We are ready to be convinced of the existence of hard cases which inevitably must exist somewhere; and it is possible that some whole communities may be in a bad way. If so it is up to the representatives of the people to ask us to come and look into such cases. There should be a truce to " general" complaints until we have been shown conclusive individual hard cases.

Where hardship exists it may or may not be possible for the Revenue and Forest Departments to mitigate them. We do object however to giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire Reserves, a practice which in our experience has led to serious abuses; and which nullifies our own control over our lower subordinates.

15. The inspection which we carried out was to this extent a surprise: the cultivators had no idea by what tests we proposed to satisfy ourselves as to the existence of hardship or otherwise. If therefore further investigations are pursued it is desirable that visitors should arrive without warning. Otherwise it is likely that cultivators desirous to demonstrate hardships will have taken the -- precaution of hiding away their manure heaps and of clearing their stalls of accumulated litter and manure.

(sd) A.F. Mundan

Ootacamund.
1-3-1934.

Conservator of Forests, Ooty Circl

True Copy)

Collector

Supplementary Note by the Collector of South Kanara.

I have little to add to what Mr. Minchin has set down; he has given an account of our tour with which I am in complete agreement. The tour, which took place from January 8th to 18th was decided upon as early as November and every opportunity was taken to advise villagers that the Conservator and the Collector were coming up together. Mr. Mahabala Hegde was told explicitly as he had taken the Landholders Memorandum to Madras. When he found that we were going to Wandse he stated that there was not much difficulty there; I then added that we should go on to Kirimanjeshwar. He excused himself from coming too but said that he would send word to the people to come and represent their grievances.

As the Conservator remarks, no one in the neighbourhood of Wandse had any grievances to ventilate but on about the third day a deputation arrived from the coast. We were just going out and so I told the Tahsildar that while we were out he should record statements from each member of the deputation, detailing the land that he had to cultivate, the kumki at his disposal and the difficulties that he was now put to. When I returned the Tahsildar said that the members of the deputation had refused to give individual statements and had emphasised that they spoke on behalf of the ryots generally.

On other occasions I have noticed that the people prefer to come in a mob and individuals dislike being singled out and questioned about their own needs and facilities. ~~I have myself~~

I have myself a considerable suspicion that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people. There will soon be elections to the Legislative Council and this is one way of nursing a constituency.

I was struck by the unreasonable attitude which was taken up against the proposal that there should be a system of organised coupes in the Reserve Forests where the removal of green and dry leaf would be done under control. The first argument generally used against such coupes was that they were far too far away.

When however it was pointed out that the Reserve Forests were just as far away in the old days, then the next argument was that any charge for removal of green or dry leaf would be out of the question. That there should be free removal is not necessary in my opinion; for I have not found that there is any objection to paying for the removal of leaf in the 'Panchayat' forests which are under popular management . In this district a panchayat forest is intended solely for leaf and the income from grazing is negligible. Those forests are in nearly all cases areas which have been under panchayat management from time immemorial. In olden days they were not called panchayat forests but 'Ten Men's Forests'. In these areas the payment for each 'knife' has been universally recognised as necessary to provide funds for the necessary watching of the area. So too in reserve coupes if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, I do not think that the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf could be construed as a hardship. There is no reason why persons who are near a Reserve Forest area should get for nothing what others have always paid for from a revenue forest area.

The result of our camp was also to show that the time honoured cliché that the South Kanara ryot cultivates with immense difficulty land adjoining forests 'infested with wild beasts' is becoming little more than the survival of a tradition. The arms licenses in this district are so numerous that the game has been largely shot out. I have often asked ryots to show me crops damaged by wild animals but they always have an excuse for not being able to. No doubt there is damage done now and then by big and in a few places like Sampaje by elephants, but very largely the enemies of the cultivator are the jackal and the monkey, which are to be found in every district.

But the South Kanara ryot habitually generalises from any incident, as may be observed from speeches of Hon'ble Members in the Legislative Council, who have spoken of wholesale cancellation of gun licenses at the end of 1933 and complete closure of forests, because they are too lazy to ascertain the true facts.

Development Dept.

3/25.5.

O.M. No.2760 I/33-6 dated 25-5-1934

Forest concessions - South Kanara withdrawal - Memorandum from the Land Holders Association.

E.R. 30.6.34

It has been suggested that in places, where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed ~~to be taken~~ it may be allowed in a limited area which ~~has to~~ can be controlled by the departmental staff ~~and that a small fee may be charged.~~ But if a fee is ~~paid~~ charged however small it may be, the ryots ~~would~~ are likely to complain on the ground that they have been using the manure free of cost from a long time. The C.C.F. is requested to offer his considered opinion on the suggestion and, if he ~~agrees to the levy of a fee~~ thinks that a fee should be charged, to suggest the fee which may ~~be charged~~ in his opinion will be a fair one.

Subject to the Ryotwari Rs. a small fee

It is however felt that

RK 25.5.34

21.5.34

To

The C.C.F.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

Received

19 Registered 19

Subject.

Forest concessions - South Kanara - Withdrawal - Memorandum from the Land Holders' Association.

ENCLOSURES.

are copies

Ref.No. 420-34 C1.

Station Chepauk, Madras, *Dated the* 11th July 1934. 19

From (Name) A. Wimbush Esquire. I.F.S..

(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

DEVELOPMENT *Department.*

Sir,

Ref: Government Memorandum No.2760 I/33-5 Dev., dated 25th May 1934.

It has been ascertained from the Conservator, Ootacamund Circle that the suggestion referred to by Government has very recently been given effect to as a trial. The District Forest Officer, North Mangalore in consultation with fuel coupe contractors has made it a condition of the contract~~s~~ for working four of his fuel coupes that the coupe contractor shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf from his coupe at the following rates:--

	Rs. as. p
Green leaf per head load	0 0 6
Dry leaf per head load.	0 0 3

The

2. The advantage of this arrangement is that it does not necessitate the employment of additional staff which would be required if permits were to be issued departmentally for a limited area over which control could be exercised; a man would have to be kept permanently in each limited area in order to issue the permits and the ordinary existing staff would be kept busy patrolling their large beats and seeing, amongst other things, that the removal of leaf was confined to the limited areas intended.

3. The abnormally low fees referred to above were fixed arbitrarily by the District Forest Officer as a trial. They have not been fixed in consultation with me and if Government refers to them in any official order to the Kanara Land Holders I suggest that the amounts should not be mentioned, since these nominal fees may prove to be too low.

4. I have considerable doubts as to whether the ryots will come forward in large numbers to buy permits. If they do it may be possible to extend the system to other coupes. In the meantime I consider that the results of the experiment may be watched by the local officers and that if some reply is pending from Government to the land holders, it may be given in a brief and non-committal form, showing that an opportunity is being given to the ryots to get their leaf from certain fuel coupes. The coupes in question are Herur Coupe III. Guruvankote Coupe III, Karyanigudde Coupe III and Kursegudde Coupe III.

C. Sharma 12.7.

for Chief Conservator.

V.S.12-7.

12.7.34

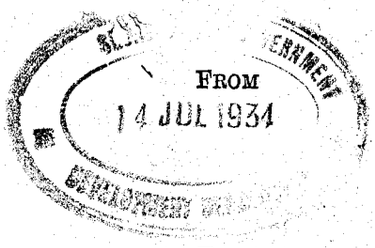
DESPATCHED
12 JUL 1934

14.7.34

Ref. No. 51

Kodialbail, Mangalore,

Dated 12th July, 1934.



From

M. R. Ry. K. R. Karant Avl., B. A., LL. B.,
Hon. Secretary, The South Kanara Landholders' Association,
MANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Fort St. George, M A D R A S.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Kanara Land-Holders' Association held on 8-7-1934 at Mangalore.

2. I beg to draw your attention to Resolution No, II therein and to request you to be good enough to move Government to be pleased to appoint a committee of Enquiry as mentioned therein.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

K. R. Karant

Proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Canara Land-Holders' Association held at 10 A.M. on Sunday, 8th July 1934, in the District Board Office Hall, Mangalore.

Present:- Messrs.

A. B. Shetty, M.L.C.,	
[illegible], M.L.C.,	
Mohamad Mohammad, M.L.C.	
M. Ramakrishna Punja.	
K. R. Karant,	
T. Vittal Shetty,	Mangalore Taluk.
T. Shankernarayana Rao,	
K. Shiva Rao,	
M. Venkatramana Bhatta,	
M. K. Bhide,	Puttur Taluk.
S. Aithappa Rai,	
B. Lingappa Gowda	
H. Mundlik Bhat,	
B. Vasudeva Rao	
B. Thimmannachar	Udipi Taluk.
J. Naganna Hegde	Karkal Taluk.
H. Madappaya	Kundapur Taluk

There were present also Messrs: K. Mushalappa, H. Muthanna Gowda, Gitta S. Manjaya, K. S. Govindaya, A. B. Mahabala Rai, K. Mahabala Hegde, Soorappaya Hebbar and some others.

On account of the unavoidable absence of the President, Diwan Bahadur B. M. Hegde. Mr. A. B. Shetty, M.L.C., was unanimously voted to the chair.

I. Re-Settlement: Mr. K. R. Karant, Secretary, speaking on the subject of the Re-settlement Scheme published in the District Gazette, of April 1934 said

that as soon as he came to know of the publication of the report on the Gazette, he placed himself in communication on May last with the District Collector for the supply of a sufficient number of copies of the Report for distribution amongst the members of the Association in the District. He read the correspondence on the subject which showed that the Collector had addressed the Superintendant, Government Press, Madras, for the supply of the required number of copies and an urgent reminder had also been sent. The copies have not been received yet. It was not been possible to supply copies to the members in the Taluk to enable them to study the report and state their objection to the scheme for the purpose of making representations to the authorities.

In view of these circumstances, the Association feels itself quite unable to state their objections by the 20th instant.

It was, therefore, resolved to request Government that sufficient number of copies of the Scheme Report may be made available immediately and in order to enable the members of the Association to study the same and to submit their objections to the Report, further time till 30th October 1934 be granted.

Resolved that the M.L.Cs of the District be requested to take the necessary steps in the next session of the Legislative Council for the enlargement of time for objections.

Resolved that a committee consisting of Messrs. V.S.Chetty, M.L.C., K.M.Karant, and V.Shiva Rao be appointed to go round the taluks of the District and invite objections to the Scheme Report and gather all

the material required to submit objections on the Report to the authorities concerned.

Mr. Karant, will be Secretary to the committee which is empowered to co-opt for the purpose of the enquiry in each taluk 2 members from the taluk. The Committee will prepare a memorandum to be placed before the general body meeting to be held in October.

II. Withdrawal of Forest Concessions: The next subject discussed was the withdrawal of the Forest Concessions. Representations had been made to Government. But no reply has been received so far.

Resolved therefore that Government be addressed for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships caused by the withdrawal of the concessions.

Resolved further that D.L.Cs of the District be requested to wait on the Honourable the Law Member in a deputation together with the following members, with power to co-opt, to urge the appointment of a committee of enquiry into the whole question.

Messrs. J.Naganna Hegde, (Karkal Taluk)
H.Madappaya,
Y.Sooryanna Shetty, } (Kundapur Taluk)
B.Thimmannachar,
And one from the Puttur Taluk.

(Sd) A. B. Shetty.

(True Copy) K. R. Karant

Hon. Secretary.

Ref. No. 50

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
17 JUL 1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Dev. Dept.

47

Kodialbail, Mangalore,

Dated 12th July, *1934*.

FROM

M. R. Ry. K. R. Karant Avl., B. A., LL. B.,
Hon. Secretary, The South Kanara Landholders' Association,
MANGALORE.

1311

To

The Honourable The Law Member
To the Government of Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Kanara Land-Holders' Association held on 8-7-1934 at Mangalore.

2. I beg to draw your attention to Resolution No II therein and to request you to be good enough to move Government to be pleased to appoint a committee of Enquiry as mentioned therein.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

K. R. Karant

Proceedings of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the South Kanara Land-Holders' Association held at 10 A.M. on Sunday, 8th July 1934, in the District Board Office Hall, Mangalore.

Present:- Messrs.

A. B. Shetty, M.L.C., Mangalore Taluk.
M. S. Shresta, M.L.C.,
Mohamad Schamnad, M.L.C.,
K. Ramakrishna Punja,
K. R. Karant,
Dr. K. Vittal Shetty,
M. Shankernarayana Rao,
M. Shiva Rao,
K. Venkatramana Bhatta, Uttur Taluk.
N. K. Bhide,
S. Aithappa Rai,
B. Lingappa Gowda,
~~N. Pundlik Bhat,~~
B. Vasudeva Rao Udipi Taluk.
B. Thimmannachar Karkal Taluk.
J. Naganna Hegde Kundapur Taluk.
N. Madappaya

There were present also Messrs: K. Mushalappa, M. Muthanna Gowda, Kasta S. Manjaya, M. S. Govindayya, A. S. Mahabala Rai, K. Mahabala Herde, Soorappaya Hebbar and some others.

On account of the unavoidable absence of the President, Diwan Bahadur B. N. Hegde, Mr. A. B. Shetty, M.L.C., was unanimously voted to the chair.

I. Re-Settlement: Mr. K. R. Karant, Secretary, speaking on the subject of the Re-settlement Scheme published in the District Gazette, of April 1934 said

that as soon as he came to know of the publication of the report on the Gazette, he placed himself in communication in May last with the District Collector for the supply of a sufficient number of copies of the report for distribution amongst the members of the Association in the District. He read the correspondence on the subject which showed that the Collector had addressed the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, for the supply of the required number of copies and an urgent reminder had also been sent. The copies have not been received yet. It has not been possible to supply copies to the members in the Taluk to enable them to study the report and state their objections to the scheme for the purpose of making representations to the authorities.

In view of these circumstances, the Association felt itself quite unable to state their objections by the 30th instant.

It was, therefore, resolved to request Government that sufficient number of copies of the Scheme Report may be made available immediately and in order to enable the members of the Association to study the same and to submit their objections to the Report, further time till 20th October 1934 be granted.

Resolved that the M.L.Cs of the District be requested to take the necessary steps in the next session of the Legislative Council for the enlargement of time for objections.

Resolved that a committee consisting of Messrs. A.B.Chetty, M.L.C., K.M.Karuna, and M.Shivarao be appointed to go round the taluks of the District and invite objections to the Scheme Report and gather all

material required to submit objections on the Repo
authorities concerned.

rant, will be Secretary to the committee
wman is empowered to co-opt for the purpose of the
enquiry in each taluk 2 members from the taluk.
Committee will prepare a memorandum to be placed befor
the general body meeting to be held in October.

II. Withdrawal of Forest Concessions: The next subject discussed was the withdrawal of the Forest
Concessions. Representations had been made to Govern
ment. But no reply has been received so far.

Resolved therefore that Government be addressed for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the hardships caused by the withdrawal of the concessions.

Resolved further that I.L.Cs of the District be requested to wait on the Honourable The Law Member in a deputation together with the following members, with power to co-opt to urge the appointment of a committee of enquiry into the whole question.

Messrs. T.Naganna Negde, (Karkal Taluk)
H.Mandappaya,
Y.Sooryanna Shetty, } (Kundapur Taluk)
B.Thimmannachar, }
And one from the Puttur Taluk.

Sd) A. B. Shetty.

True copy: K. K. Karanth

Hon. Secretary.

Development Dept.

O.M.No.2760 I/33-7 dated 16 -8-1934.

Forest concessions - South Kanara - withdrawal - memorandum from the Land Holders' Association.

Correspondence ending with C.C's letter No.420-34-C1 dated 11-7-1934.

The Government observe that the D.F.O., North Mangalore, in consultation with fuel coupe contractors has made it a condition of the contracts for working four of his fuel coupes that the coupe contractor shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf from ~~his~~ the coupe at nominal rates and that an opportunity has thus been given to the ryots to get their leaf from these areas. The C.C. has stated that if ryots come forward in large numbers to buy permits, it should be possible to extend the system to other coupes. The C.C. is requested to state what the result of the experiment has been so far. He is also requested to state

hether half a dozen areas can be selected

o which the experiment can be extended,

and if so, to report the names of

such areas

To

The C.C.F.

15-8-44.

153

Dem-Delhi

Dem. No 2760 D/33- & Dt 9-10-84

Ref. Govt Memo. 2760 I/83- Dated 16-8-84 - Govt concerning - S. Kanara - withdrawal - memorandum from the Land Holders' Assocn

The attention of the C.C.T is drawn to the above memo and he is requested to expedite his reply

The C.C.T
Bangalore
12/10/84 Dak
5.20 pm

9/10

Issue

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
26 OCT 1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Forest **DEPARTMENT.**

Received ..... 19 *Registered* 19

Subject.

Forest concessions--

South Kanara - Withdrawal- Memorandum from the Landholders' Association.

ENCLOSURES.

).....

.....

are copies.....

Reference No. 420/34-C1

Station Madras., *Dated the* 24th October 19 34

From (Name) ... Wimbush Esq., I.F.S.,

(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Development Department.

Sir,

Refce: Government Memorandum No.2760-I/33-7 dated 16th August 1934.

With reference to the Government Memorandum quoted above, I submit copies of the North Mangalore District Forest Officer's report with the Collector's and the Conservator's remarks thereon. In the absence of specific orders from Government I do not consider myself justified in recommending the forming of six coupes and the employment of gumastas to issue permits departmentally. The

Conservator,

Conservator.
Ootacamund Circle, refers to this because, no doubt, there are no additional suitable fuel coupes, leased to contractors, to which the experiment can be extended.

C. S... 25-X
for Chief Conservator.

oav.24.10

Encs: Copy of D.F.Os letter with endorsements of the Collector and Conservator.

RECEIVED 29 OCT 1934

Copy of Ref.on C.No.1688/F/34-C1 dated 12th September 1934 from the District Forest Officer, Mangalore North to the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, Ootacamund, through the Collector of South Kanara.

Forest concessions- South Kanara- Withdrawal.

Ref: Your Ref.No.M.1674 dated 28-8-1934.

During August I saw most of the fuel coupes and all the contractors and discussed the situation with them. Although the green leaf head load offer had been open for 2½ months and it was then the crucial time for such manure collection not a single contractor had been asked for a single head load.

2. During August also the Collector inspected the surroundings of Todar and Hosabettu Reserved Forests and found that the green leaf in Unreserves adjoining the reserved forests had not even been utilised.

3. This includes the reserved forests of Hosur, Kurse, Todar and Hosabettu which were always alleged to be the most hard hit areas.

4. From the above, at present, I conclude that I do not believe there is any dearth of green leaf manure and see no reasons for any extension of the experiment at present.

5. It will not be possible to report on the dry leaf situation till next April as January, February, March is the collection season.

Copy of Endorsement on the above Ref.No.M.1674/34 dated 25-9-1934 of the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle.

Forwarded to the Collector of South Kanara, Mangalore for favour of remarks and return at an early date

2. I have already received a reminder from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.

Copy of endorsement of the Collector of S.Kanara,N.Dis. No.4734/34 dated 2-10-1934 on Mangalore North District Forest Officer's Ref.No.C.1688-F-34-C1 dated 12th September 1934 to the Conservator of Forests, Ooty Circle.

Sub: Forest concessions- South Kanara-Withdrawal.

Returned. As Mr.Griffith has said I walked about the Todar and Hosabettu Reserves in order to see whether the parts outside the reserve were being denuded of leaf. It was the month in which the 'Panchayat Forests' are cut and I had seen several areas near Mulki which had been completely cut so that there was not a green twig to be seen. But at Todar and Hosabettu there was not the least sign of any green leaf cutting and although the parts of the unreserve and the reserve in which I walked about were not far from cultivation, it was not possible just by looking at the growth, to decide on which side of the reserve line we were. Evidently the ryots are not in such difficulties there as their leaders maintain.

Ref.No.M.1674/34 dated 6-10-34. of the Conservator of Forests, Ooty Circle on the above.

Copy submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras, in continuation of my Ref.No.M.1674/34 dated 25-9-34.

In Government's Memo of 16th August 1934, the Chief Conservator of Forests was requested to report what the result of the experiment (sale of leaf manure in coupes) had been so far.

The

The correspondence above answers this. Government asked further "whether half a dozen areas can be selected to which the experiment can be extended, and if so, to report the names of such areas."

The District Forest Officer's report leads me to think that the extension contemplated should wait until symptoms of demand arise. The 6 trial coupes can be opened if Government wishes, at any time; I shall have to apply of course for six temporary permit issuing gumastas, to control the coupes, as we have no spare staff.

oav.24.x

O.m. No. 2760-I/35-7 dt 29.11.37

Forest encroachment - S. Kanara - withdrawal - memorandum from the Land-holders association - correspondence ending with C.C. letter No. 4230/Rev-C dated 22-10-37.

The Government considered that the arrangement referred to in Para 1 of C.C. letter Ref No. 4230/Rev-C dt. 4.9.37, whereby fuel Contractors are required to obtain permits for the removal of Areca and Dry leaf from their estates, may be extended to such more taluks as, even though the encroachments have been availed of so far. The C.C. is/requested to furnish the names of the more areas, to which the concession may be extended.

The C.C. Rev. Dept. No. 2819 XI 37.

29/11

29/11/37

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

11 JAN 1935

Received ..... 192 *Registered* 192

Subject.

Forest concession - South Kanara District - Memorandum from the Land Holders' Association - Formation of coupes.

ENCLOSURES.

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ars copies .....

Ref. No. 420-34-C1.

Station Madras *Dated the* 10th January 1935.

From (Name) A. Wimbush, Esq., I.F.S.,

(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Development Department.

Sir,

Ref: Government Memorandum No. 2760-I/33-9 dated the 27th November 1934.

There are no more fuel coupes leased to contractors in the reserves closed to the concessions in North Mangalore. It is therefore not possible to extend the arrangement referred to in paragraph 1 of Chief Conservator's letter No.420/34.C1. dated 11-7-1934.

2. As a point of interest it may be noted that in an

endorsement N.Dis. No. 6221/34, dated 15-12-1934 the Collector of Kanara wrote "I have had no petitions about difficulties with green leaf for many months".

for Chief Conservator.

ks.10.1.35.

DESPATCHED
10 JAN 1935

Forest concessions - South Kanara - withdrawal.

C.No. 2760 I.

To Secretary

The following concessions were given to the ryots of the South Kanara district in 1922 by the Chief Conservator of Forests :-

(a) permission to clear undergrowth in all reserves (except those near the coast) to a distance of half a mile from the limits of private holdings ;

(b) in the reserves near the coast, the clearing of undergrowth to a distance of 200 yards from the limits of private holdings

(c) clearing of undergrowth in all areas sown with hopea ;

(d) the free removal of --

(i) green manure leaves of unclassified species and dry leaves of all species ; and

(ii) dead fuel.

No charges of any kind were to be made.

Mr. Cox, who was then Conservator, also intimated to the ryots that the concessions of free removal of green manure leaf from unclassified trees in reserves as well as dead fuel would be allowed in case they came forward to form panchayats under 'Forest village system' giving an undertaking that they would protect the reserves from fire and illicit fellings and that if the panchayats successfully protected the reserves they would also be given a refund of half of the grazing fees collected.

2. Since then the concessions were abused and the Chief Conservator of Forests was recommending to Government that they might be withdrawn. Reference

is solicited to the following :-

(1) Mr. Shetty's letter at page 1 and the Chief Conservator's letter at page 3 of G.O.No. 1116 Dev., dated 9th July 1938 :

(2) para 3 of the Chief Conservator's letter dated 17th January 1930, at page 72 of G.O.No. 1189 Dev., dated 10th June 1930, and paras 11-15 of the note at pages 86-97 of G.O. ibid.

(3) paras 4 and 6 of the Chief Conservator's letter dated 5th August 1932, at page 2 of G.O.No. 1426 Dev., dated 2nd November 1932 : and

(4) paras 2,4 and 5 of Chief Conservator's letter dated 6th October 1932, at pages 47-49 of G.O. ibid.

The Collector of South Kanara was also in favour of the withdrawal. Vide e.g. para 20 at page 99 of G.O.No. 1189 Dev., dated 10th June 1930.

The Government accepted the recommendation and directed that the concessions might be withdrawn gradually with effect from the 1st April 1933 after giving due notice to the ryots affected and that a beginning might be made with the six reserves where the concessions were much abused situated farthest from the sea, the six sandalwood reserves in the North Mangalore division and the Veeracumba reserve in the South Mangalore division. Vide O.Ms. at pages 51 and 67 of G.O.No. 1426 Dev., dated 2-11-1932.

In G.O.No. 1054 Dev., dated 31-8-1933, the Government further directed that the areas in which the concessions are in force should be divided into 2 classes - areas where the concessions are abused and therefore their withdrawal is desirable and areas where sylvicultural interests necessitate the non-exercise of the concessions. In regard to the latter the concessions might be withdrawn in

submitted to Government specifying the areas so close In the case of the former, the concessions might be withdrawn after obtaining the previous sanction of Government in each case and after giving due warning to the people concerned.

3. As a result of the withdrawal there were several interpellations in the Legislative Council. Vide the questions and answers at pages 4, 12, 16, 24. 46. 66 and 84 of G.O.No. 1037 Dev., dated 29th August 1933. Several representations were also received on the subject. Vide pages 1-6, 9-23, 30-35, 42, 61-63, 66-75, 78-84 of ~~the~~ G.O. No. 682 Dev., dated 7th June 1933, and pages 91-94 of G.O.No. 1037 Dev., dated 29th August 1933. The Hony. Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders Association has now submitted a memorandum setting forth the grievances of the ryots and making certain requests. The following ar the points urged and the requests made on behalf of the ryots :-

(1) that an enquiry may be caused to be made as to --

(a) the number of families depending for their livelihood entirely upon agriculture in the villages in which the concessions are now closed ;

(b) whether these people have any other means of substituting the numerous needs which they have been getting from the reserves, such as green and dry leaves for their manure, grass for the fodder of their cattle, fuel for their agricultural and domestic needs etc.

(2) a ~~typical~~ survey may be ordered to be made of at least a few typical villages to ascertain the various hardships, miseries and losses which are caused to the ryots of those villages on account of the reserve forests ; such as --

(i) loss of cattle by tigers and panthers ;

(ii) destruction of crops by wild boars, monkeys etc ;

(iii) killing of men, women and children by tigers and panthers ; and

(iv) deaths due to malaria.

(3) the landlords who are said to own their 'hadies' or private forests from which they can get manure leaf are very few. The rest have to depend on the forests

para 7, p.7 cf

(4) the population has increased by more than 50 per cent during the last 40 or 50 years. Instead of making more land available for cultivation out of the reserves and lessening the rigours of forest laws attempts have been made to curtail cultivation and to increase the extent of reserves

B at p 5 cf

(5) though it is a fact that the forest concessions have been abused here and there it is not right to penalise the entire people. Further, the abuses have greatly abated in certain parts, such as Mandakolu reserve ;

paras 8 & 9 at p 7

(6) according to the administration report for 1931-32 the working of the forest village system in the Todar and Hosabettu reserves of the North Mangalore division was satisfactory. It is not credible that between 1st April 1932 and 1st April 1933 the abuses would have extraordinarily increased;

A at pp 8-9 cf

(7) the withdrawal of the concessions is presumably due to a change in the policy of the department ;

para 10, p. 9 cf

8) the Government have declared that the reserves in question as well as others called 'Ryots' forests' are intended mainly to supply the agricultural and domestic needs of the ryots residing in the locality and the withdrawal of the concessions is contrary to the declaration. Further, it is

paras 10 & 11 at p 9
5-11 cf

going back on the policy enunciated by the Government of India in their resolution of 1894.

(8) The attempt on the part of the Forest department in this district appears to be not to exploit the vast extent of the dense, the first rate and primaeval forests situated on the ghats and sub-ghat regions of this district as they ought to be commercially but to leave them untouched and on the other hand to change the forests which have all along been held to be ryots' forests where only fuel was to be got into sandalwood and other kinds of exploitation forests, and for this purpose to close them entirely to the people and deny them their legitimate needs irrespective of all considerations of justice and humanity ;

(10) the department has declared 35 species of prohibited and classified trees from which leaves and twigs shall not be removed but it will not be possible to remember their names and to identify them ;

(11) the department should look into the record of its own subordinates who have been to some extent at least responsible for some of the abuses ;

(12) wherever there are reserves the villagers are practically compelled to submit themselves to almost a systematic form of corruption either for the very use of the concessions or for being saved from the tyranny of false and manipulated cases. Even in the case of the reserves which are now closed certain people are being allowed by the subordinates to remove manure leaves and fuel on payment of a heavier bribe ;

(13) while the intention is that the closure of the concessions should beggn from the reserves in the interior of the district and proceed towards the sea where the demand is admittedly the heaviest, the

reserves now actually closed are all on the coast ;

(14) Step by step since 1799 the valuable and immemorial private rights of the people of the South Kanara district were confiscated and deprived of one by one ;

(15) the Association is ready to co-operate with the Government in their attempts to see that the concessions in question are used as fairly and properly as may practically be possible ;

(16) the panchayats under the forest village system did not work satisfactorily because whereas in the East Coast the villagers live in a centralised and compact area and can easily watch one another, in South Kanara houses and properties are spread out in almost every nook and corner. The Villagers have however agreed to form vigilance committees to undertake the responsibility of reporting cases of abuse to the concerned officers of the Forest department and to keep a general watch on the proper use of the concessions by the people;

(17) the rigours of forest laws in respect of the reserves should be lessened with a view to meet the increasing needs of cultivation ; or

if this is not possible, all the reserves may be placed under the control of the Revenue department which is in touch with the people and knows their difficulties ; or

if this too is not possible, a representative committee may be constituted for the whole district in which the Forest department, the Collector of the district and responsible non-official ryots may be represented.

The above points will be dealt with below.

4. Points (1), (2) and (3). It is submitted that there seems to be no need to order a

general enquiry as is suggested in the memorandum. Reference is solicited to para 7 of the Conservator's letter at page 34 of G.O.No. 1426 Dev., dated 2nd November 1932, and para 22 at page 39 of G.O. ibid. It should not be difficult for the ryots to get their requirements elsewhere. After all the supply of green manure from reserve forests will not be unlimited. As observed by the Conservator a time will come when the forest cannot supply the demand. It is therefore better that the ryots should be made not to depend on the reserves. It was also reported that the ryots do not go to the reserve forests for the leaves and shrubs and less valuable species as they get these from the kumaki land and elsewhere, but that they resort to forests to get the leaves of valuable tree species such as Terminalia tomentosa and Terminalia paniculata.

As regards supply of fuel, it will be seen from the portion marked A in the Conservator's letter at page 39 of G.O.No. 1426 Dev., dated 2nd November 1932, that the reserves most concerned with the concessions are of value for production of fuel and for all the other normal functions of a reserve forest. There will therefore be no difficulty in getting the requisite fuel. Please see also portion marked A at page 48 of the G.O.

With regard to the depredations of wild beasts, attention is solicited to the Legve. Council question No. 129 at page 29 of Lodged No. 2639 F/33 Revenue, dated 11th November 1933, and the answer thereto. It will be seen that the number of cattle killed by wild beasts has been as follows during the years 1928-29 to 1931-32 :

1928-29	4,339
1929-30	4,355
1930-31	3,968
1931-32	3,928

The number of deaths is no doubt large, but it is not true that it is increasing. It is however submitted that the Government offer and grant rewards for the destruction of certain wild animals and people are allowed to hunt certain species of wild beasts in reserved forests during July to January subject to the condition that the previous permission of the Collector or the Revenue Divisional officer is obtained and that an officer of the Forest department is present at the time of the hunt. Gun licenses are also granted by District Magistrates at their discretion.

As regards unlimited grazing, reference is solicited to para 2 of the Chief Conservator's letter at page 4 of G.O.No. 359 Dev., dated 10th March 1932, wherein he stated as follows :- " The object of management of the reserves handed over to forest village panchayats was the provision of such grazing as they afforded and the production of leaf and litter. The grazing available in these areas is limited. It is therefore considered neces-sary to provide for limitation in the best interests of the cattle as well as of the forest. In every panchayat the grazing is limited to that which the area can support.

As regards the ravages of malaria complained of as having been due to the proximity of reserve forests, reference is solicited, to paras 1-6 of the note by the Chief Conservator of Forests at pages 74-76 of G.O.No. 1189 Dev., dated 10th June 1930.

5. Point (4). If the reserves had been allowed to be exploited by the ryots as they liked when the population was small it does not follow that it should be allowed even after the population had increased. It stands to reason that the demand

having increased the supply should be regulated and that for that purpose the rules for the regulation o the use of the forests should be rigidly followed. Further, unless the reserves are increased it will not be possible to provide for the ever increasing requirements of the ryots in the matter of fuel, gra ing etc.

6. Point (5). (15) & (16) As observed by the District Forest officer at A on page 20 of G.O.No. 1426 Dev., dated 2nd November 1932, it will not be possible for a single forest guard to prevent abuses in the vast area of his beat. Further, reference is solicited to the portion marked A at page 1 supra from which it will be seen that the concessions were allowed only on condition that the ryots came forward to form panchayats, and if they did not form themselves into panchayats they are themselves to blame. The Chief Conservator of Forests was of opinion that " the real reason for the villagers' refusal to form panchayats is the fact that they feel assured the Government will not withdraw the forest concessions which amply cater for most of their agricultural requirements and naturally they do not wish to be saddled with the obligations imposed by the agreement."

If the ryots will hereafter form themselves into panchayats and show by better conduct that they can be trusted to look after the reserves properly it is open to the Conservator and the Chief Conservator to recommend that the concessions may be again allowed. It is for them to take action and ther the desired result will follow.

7. Point (6). Simply because the panchayats worked well before the 1st April 1932 it cannot be stated that they could not have deteriorated subsequently.

that there has been no change in the policy of the department. The department has all along held that the exercise of the concessions, whether abused or not, would spell complete ruin on the forests. Cf. para 6 of letter at page 2 of G.O.No. 1426 Dev., dated 2nd November 1932. Mr. Matthew (District Forest officer) remarked that protection and concessions cannot go hand in hand and that the concessions have undone the work of years and would gradually spoil the forests. If the concessions are to continue indefinitely there will not be only loss of revenue ; but, what is of greater importance, the loss of a considerable amount of material which is required by the people of the district.

On the other hand, it is submitted that it has been declared that the forests do not contain an everlasting supply of green manure leaves and that sooner or later the ryots should make arrangements for cultivating green manure crops on their lands. The Agricultural department has been advising ryots to this end and also supplying seeds . Therefore the sooner the concessions are withdrawn and ryots are made to stand on their legs the better. Further, the withdrawal is only gradual.

9. Point (9). The argument does not appear to be sound. If sandalwood is grown on private lands the landowner is bound to enter into an agreement to sell it to Government. If Government forests contain sandalwood they cannot be allowed to be destroyed by the ryots. Sandalwood is a revenue yielding tree and has to be carefully guarded. The Association complains that the department is planting sandalwood in ryots' forests and is thus depriving the ryots of the use of the forests. It is submitted that it has been urged in the Legislative Council that the

department is a very costly one and that it does not yield sufficient revenue. In the face of such remarks the department cannot but try to make the forests yield revenue by planting sandalwood etc. One cannot both have the cake and eat it.

10. Points (11) and (12). It is submitted that if specific instances of corruption are brought to the notice of the departmental office: they will be duly enquired into. No action can be taken on such vague allegations however much they may be true.

11. Point (10). Reference is solicited to para 16 of the note submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests with his letter dated 17th January 1930, wherein he stated that the number of species proscribed from cutting would be reduced from 34 to 12, and added that " there is a complaint that the people are unable to identify the barred species ; it is doubtful if this is true, but the reduction in the number of these is possible". Later on, he stated that the reduction would apply only to panchayats which are newly formed, the idea being that the concession should act as an incentive for the formation of panchayats, that as no new panchayats had been formed there was no occasion to reduce the list. He added that there would be no objection to the number of trees being reduced in the case of the existing panchayats provided they agree to maintain and fire trace reserve boundaries and to exclude the cattle of any person who causes damage to the area It is submitted that if the existing panchayats accept these conditions or new panchayats are formed then the Chief Conservator will automatically reduce the number of proscribed trees. The remedy lies in the hands of the ryots

themselves. No action is called for on the part of the Government.

12. Point (13). It is no doubt true that it was suggested that the closure might begin from the reserves in the interior and proceed towards the sea but the reserves which were closed were most abused and hence were chosen for closure. The Chief Conservator will hereafter, presumably follow the order at A above. Subject to the reservation at A on pages 2-3 supra. It is however submitted that the policy of closure having been made known to the people it does not matter which reserves are closed first so long as due notice of closure is given to the ryots concerned. No action seems necessary on this point.

13. Point (14). The Association raises the question of the private rights of the people of the district. This is a large question and need not be examined now since the association itself does not press the point but only asks for the restoration of the concessions.

14. Point (17). The suggestions made herein cannot, it is submitted, be accepted. As submitted before, it will be necessary to adhere to the restrictions and work them rigidly in the interests both of the people and of the forests. Nor is the proposal to hand over the reserves to the Revenue department feasible because that department has not got the machinery required to administer the forests. The third suggestion, to form a Committee consisting of the Collector, a Forest officer and representative non-officials, is not also feasible. The functions of the Committee are to be to meet once or twice a year and discuss the hardships of the ryots, whether with respect to the concessions or otherwise of the

charges of abuse that might be brought against the people by the department. It is submitted that even now it is open to a representative body like the South Kanara Landholders' association to meet the Collector once or twice a year and discuss such matters. If the association will give intimation of the subjects which they wish to speak about and give sufficient notice the Collector will invite the District Forest officer or the Conservator to the discussion. There seems therefore to be no need for a separate Committee.

15 The first conference of the landholders of South Kanara which met at Puttur in December 193; passed the following resolutions

(1) that it wholeheartedly supports the memorandum submitted by the association :

(2) that fresh reserves should not b created and that the coastal reserves should b disafforested and made available for cultivation

(3) that great hardship is caused to the ryots residing in the vicinity of reserve forests by entirely closing the reserves for grazing in cases of accidental fires for which the ryots are not responsible ;

(4) that rent should not be charged for channel water flowing from the reserves to lands under cultivation ;

(5) that the fees charged for the grazing of cattle should be abolished or reduced ;

(6) that the conference views with grave concern the solicitude of Government to preserve wild life which is causing irreparable hardship, loss and misery to human life, cattle and crops in the South Kanara district.

These points will be dealt with below.

16. Item (1). No remarks are called for.

17. Item (2). It is submitted that the creation of reserves and disafforestation of them are matters for decision by the Forest department on their merits. [If in the interests of conservancy and to protect sandalwood and other valuable trees standing on certain lands it is considered desirable to constitute such lands into a reserve the department will take action accordingly. On the other hand, if the department finds that any reserve does not contain any valuable tree growth and that it is fit for cultivation it will take steps to disafforest the land.] No general instructions seem necessary.

18. Item (3). Reference is solicited to para 2 of the memorial from the residents of Thodiana village wherein they represented that owing to the outbreak of fire in the forest for which they were not responsible the Forest officials had recommended the closure of the reserve to grazing as a punishment. Enquiries made by the District Forest officer showed that the fires were caused by cattle owners or graziers, and that the villagers did nothing to put out the fires. It is submitted that if fire breaks out in the reserves it is the duty of the villagers around to help in putting them out. If they fail to do so the natural inference will be that they had themselves caused the fires and there is no other alternative than to close the reserves to grazing. For orders whether a reply may be given on these lines.

19. Item (4). Reference is solicited to the orders in G.O.No. 2067 Revenue, dated 9th October 1929. On a memorial received from the ryots in the

2223 / 27 Dec. No. 1561 (I) 27/53

vicinity of the Karkal taluk representing that the natural flow of water from the reserves is not allowed to be utilised for irrigation purposes without payment of rent, orders were passed ~~xxxxx~~ as follows. Vide sub-para (2) of G.O.No. 1561 Dev., dated 27th October 1931 :-

(I)

> Free use of water from reserved forests is allowed in all cases in which such a right has been admitted at forest settlement. In all other cases, the use or diversion of water from reserved forests for irrigation is permissible under a license to be issued by the Collector. The license provides for the payment of water cess at the rates prescribed by the rules framed under the Madras Irrigation Cess Act. If the request of the ~~mm~~memorialists is for the abolition of this cess, it cannot be granted. If however any charge not in accordance with these orders have been imposed for the use of water from reserved forests, the fact may be brought to the notice of the Collector who is now the only authority authorised to issue licenses for diversion of water from reserved forests and who will examine all cases where permits have been issued before by the D.F.O. with a view to the issue of fresh license."

Submitted that the memorialists may be informed on the above lines

20. Item (5) Reference is solicited to the note by the Chief Conservator of Forests at pages 101-102 of G.O.No. 1189 Dev., dated 10th June 1930. The Chief Conservator stated that the amount of grass land available outside the reserve was much greater than within it. It would appear that there

(H)

was there no real need for pasture land. It will not be possible to abolish the fee in the interests of the conservation of the forests. If the fees are abolished it will not be possible to control the admission of cattle within the reserves with reference to the grazing possibility of the forests and the forests will be overgrazed. The request for the abolition of the fee cannot therefore be complied with.

As regards the request that the rates may be reduced it is submitted that the existing rates are not high when compared with those charged elsewhere. Please see the statement at pages 4-9 of G.O.No. 1126 Dev., dated 15th September 1933. No reduction is therefore possible.

21. Item (6). Reference is solicited to the proceedings of the inaugural meeting held in connection with the formation of the society for the preservation of wild life in South India held on the 1st November 1933. The objects of the association will be found at page 3 of the proceedings. It will be seen that there is nothing in them about which the ryots of South Kanara need ~~not~~ be alarmed. In attempting to achieve the objects (3) and (4) the authorities will doubtless consider the special case of the South Kanara district.

The e.e. has not seen the memorandum and these notes may go without any remarks he may wish to add on the various points raised in the memorandum.

Dev.no. 2760 I/33-1

The file was got back from the c.e
for reference at the interview Hon Member had
with the Minister today. This may be return
to the c.e. The Hon. Member will be glad to
have a joint report from the Conservator
and the Collector on the points raised in the
memorandum as these officers have, it is
understood since toured the district and examine
the alleged grievances on the spot. The C.E. may
be requested to obtain this report and forward
it to Govt in resubmitting the file with his
remarks.

Pp 2-28 CF

RK
25.1.34

25/1

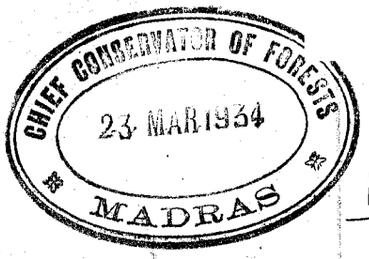
C.C.F. 40.

No. 2760 I/33-2
26-1-34

Cus 903 I/34.

Forest Concessions – withdrawal –
S. Kanara

From the Collr of South Kanara no. nil
dated 17-3-34



AS

D 1/pp 27

Please see the letter from the Collr of South Kanara placed below. The main file was sent to the C.C.F. also for remarks on 27-1-1934. This may be sent to him in continuation.

yes. Log should see

D/20-3-34.
[illegible]
20/3/34

KR 21.3.34 S. 21/3

C.C.F. Nil

~~No. 160 I/34-5.~~
1-3-34

U.O.

Resubmitted. 4/32-37 & 4/38-39

Mr. Minchin's notes and Mr. Gawne's letter seem to sum up the case very fairly and very accurately. It proved impossible to find real cases of hardship which exist mainly in the imagination of interested politicians. The result of personal investigations made by the Collector and Conservator shows ample justification for Government taking a very firm stand and pursuing their policy of withdrawing the concessions. I think that it may now be taken as proved that generalisations made by politicians to the effect that the ryots of

South

Urgent
PG 23/3/34

C

South Kanara suffer great hardship owing to the Forest regulations do not deserve Government's serious attention.

(Sd) A. Wimbush
29.3.34

(True Copy)

4.4

Personal Assistant.

4-4-34

To the Secretary to Government, Development Department.
Chief Conservator's u.o.No.420/34-C1 dated 31-3-1934.

DESPATCHED
5-APR 1934

Oav.4.4

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
5-APR1934
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Dev. 1062-I
5-4-34

Dev. Dept

To Asst. Secy.

Mr. Minchin's note will be found at P.P. 32-37 C/ and Mr. Gaunt's letter at P.P. 38-39 C/. It will be seen from them that no Complaints about forest grievances were received in several places; that while the powerful of the ryots clamour for the free use of reserved forests they try to keep the poor ryots out of the unreserves to which they have a claim and that the ryots do not go to the forest coupes for leaf manure though they are available there. The Collector and the Conservator admit that there must be some hard cases but they were not brought to me.

A+B at P. 32 C/

N at P. 35 C/

5 at P. 36 C/

A at P. 37 C/

and that there is no use of making wholesale Complaints. They are, however, against giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves.

A at P. 37 c/l

The Collector thinks that much of the agitation is inspired by those who are anxious to pose as leaders of the people. He thinks that if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied in forest coupes were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf would not be construed as a hardship.

R at P. 38 c/l.

X at P. 39 c/l

2 As regards the Complaint of losses from wild animals the Collector states that the Arms licenses in this District are so numerous that the game has been largely shot out and that the ryots were not able to show crops damaged by wild animals though they were asked to do so

W at P. 39 c/l

3 The Chief Conservator observes that it was impossible to find cases of real ~~re~~ hardship, that they existed mainly in the imagination of interested officials & that general Complaints of

C at P. 18 ante

this matter do not deserve serious

attention.

4 For orders whether the Honble Secy, the South Kanara Land holders' Association may be informed that the Govt have caused careful local enquiries to be made by the Conservator of Forests and the Collector of South Kanara and have been informed that though they asked to be shown specific cases of hardship, people did not come forward to do so and that the Arms licenses in the District are so numerous that the game has been largely shot out. He may be told that local officers will be instructed to afford as much assistance and relief as possible whenever specific cases of hardship are taken to their notice (and that there is no good making general complaints.) For orders)

A

The joint report of the Collector and the Conservator makes it clear that the grievances if at all they exist, are not widespread and that no general change in the policy is called for. The concessions have been withdrawn so far in only 13 Reserves and before they are withdrawn in any other reserve notice will be given

X/18434.

Jar 1872.

there is no need for a general enquiry or survey as suggested by the memorandum. The Association may be informed as in para 4 of the above.

RC
21.4.34 S.

H.M. will remember that Mr Minchin gave an account of his journey with the Collector to H.M. in person —

V 23/4

A/17.4.34 The foregoing note was too late to reach Sir Krishnan Nair. But Mr Minchin is here & if H.M. desires will be prepared to give him a personal account of the tour

V 24/4

H.M.C.4

air 26/4.

I should be glad to meet Mr Minchin. Will 11.30 am tomorrow suit him?

K.V. Reddi
27.4.34.

Mr Bridge (who is staying with Mr M.) will give him the message & ask him to let me in the course of today (no telephone)

V 27/4

27.IV.C.4

I have had a discussion with Mr. Minchin on this subject and he proposes that in places, where it would cause hardship if green leaf is not allowed to be taken, a small fee might be charged for an area to be delimited by the Department, small enough to be controlled by our officers or staff. But I feel that if a fee is fixed, however small it may be, the ryots will be complaining on the ground that they have been - using this manure ~~x~~ free of cost at any rate from 1922 and some of them would even go the length of saying that it is an immemorial right. I would like to have the considered opinion of the Chief Conservator on this matter and would like to know what fee, if any, he would suggest.

2. The question of withdrawing the concessions from reserves other than those from which concessions had already been withdrawn will be considered as the proposals reach Government, but it is hoped that - these will be as few in number as possible and only in cases where it has been unequivocally demonstrated that the reserves are being abused to the detriment thereof.

3. After the enquiry made by the Chief Conservato and the Collector of the District I do not see any reason for any further enquiry into the matter.

4. After a reply is received from the Chief - Conservator on the points raised by me in para 1 above a very conciliatory and polite letter may be written to the Secretary, South Kanara Landholders' Association on the lines suggested at A on page 21 of the notes omitting the small portion in brackets.

5. I wish to give expression to my sense of appreciation of the good work done by Mr. Gawne and

Mr. Minchin in this connection. They have gone into the matter thoroughly and ~~they~~ they have found out the truth. The people of South Kanara can have no complaint when their District Collector, whom they always regard as the defender of their privileges as against the Forest Department, has gone into the matter so closely and in cooperation with the Forest Officers.

H.W.R
7.5.34

Ans 5/31

To Asst Secy

Please see H. M's note above

With ref. to Secy's ~~orders~~ marginal order on P. 23 ante, a draft G.M. to the C-C-F. is submitted for approval

RK
22.5.34

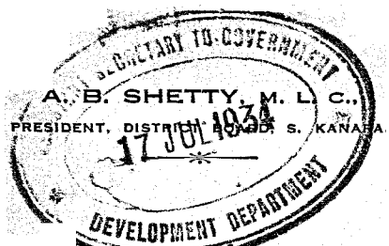
18.5.34.

21.5.34

[Issued as G.M. no 2760-I/53-6 dt 25-5-34]

From the C.C.F. no 420-34-C1 dt 11-7-1934

From the Honry. Secy, The South Kanara Land Holders Assn no 51 dated 12-7-1934



KLK
16-7-34

Manoalore.
14-7-1934.

To
The Hon'ble Mr. K. V. Reddy Naidu.

The M.L.Cs of South Kanara together with some other members of our district Landholders Association desire to wait on you in a deputation to represent the hardships caused to the ryots by the withdrawal of the Forest Concessions. May I request you to receive the deputation and let me know which day during the next Council session or just after its close will suit you to hear our representations?

Yours sincerely
A B Shetty

To Asst Secy.

Please see the G.M. at P. 40 cf, the C.C's reply at P.P. 41-42 cf, letter from the Hon. Secy. the South Kanara Land Holders' Assn. at P. 43 cf, Resolution no. 11 passed by the Association at its meeting held on 8-7-1934 at P. 46 cf and the D.O. ~~ltr~~ from Hon'ble A.B. Shetty at P. 25 ante.

2. With ref. to para 1 of H.M's note at P. 23 ante the C.C. was asked to report, in the G.M. at P. 40 cf, whether removal of green leaf can be allowed, subject to the payment of a small fee, in a limited area which can be controlled by the Departmental Staff. The C.C. reports in his reply at P.P. 41-42 cf that the suggestion has already been given effect to as a trial in certain reserves of the North Mangalore Division by which the D.F.O. has made it a condition of the fuel contracts, that the contractors shall issue permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf at the nominal rate of 0-0-6 and 0-0-3 per head load respectively. The C.C says that the advantage of this system is that it does not necessitate the employment of additional Staff which would be required if permits were to be issued departmentally

for a limited area over which control could be exercised, as a man would have to be kept permanently in each limited area in order to issue the permits while the ordinary staff would be kept busy patrolling their long beat of seeing amongst other things, that the removal of heat was confined to the limited areas intended. The C.C. adds that the rates referred to above were not fixed by the D.F.O. in consultation with him & that he has considerable doubts as to whether the ryots will come forward in large numbers to buy permits & if they do, it may be possible to extend the system to other coupes. He requests that if a reply is to be given to the South Kanara Land Holders association, it may be done in a brief non committal form that an opportunity is being given to the ryots to get their heat from certain fuel coupes. Orders are ripe for issue in this file but they may be held up with ref. to paras 3 and 4 infra. The C.C's reply at P.P 41-42 may be submitted to H.M.C 3 for perusal with ref. to para 1 of the H.M's note at P. 23 ante

3. The Hon. Secy, South Kanara Land Holders Assn has sent a copy of the resolution passed by the Assn at its meeting held on 8-7-1934 regretting Govt's to abandon a commence

Kittiam 2 P 42 of

Para 3 P 42 of

Para 1, P 42 of

P 43 of

Resolution II P 44

by the withdrawal of the concessions and authorising certain members to wait on the Hon. Member in a deputation to urge the appointment of the said Committee. In his D.O. dated 14-7-34 at P. 25 ante, Mr. A.B. Shetty requests H.M. to receive the deputation & to fix a ~~date~~ suitable date. This may be submitted to H.M. for orders.

4 The same Member (Mr. A.B. Shetty) has given notice of a resolution for the appointment of such a Committee, to be moved by him in the Coming session of the Leg. Council. The resolution has ~~come on~~ become successful in the ballot. It is being noted on separately.

Rt. to file.

KK
26.7.34

X/20.7
D.O.
26.7.34.

I have intended below the N.F. on account of a rather good case in S. Kanara received from the C.C.J

27/7

H.M. to Law
(Comm by H.M. 29.7.34)

I had a discussion with Secretary and was to write to the C.C and Secretary of the Committee & will reply when files will be received

Secy to Govt
on 14/8/34

Kick
8.8.34

for intensive propaganda about green leaf manure crop.

(2) Ask C C F if half a dozen areas can be selected ~~the~~ to which the experiment of allowing forest contractors to issue permits for green leaf can be extended.

Ag 14/8

To Secy.

With ref. to item (2) above a draft D.O. to the C.C.F. is submitted for approval.

15.8.34.

Ag 15/8

D.O.

15.8.34

It is a matter of necessity to watch since we addressed C.C.F. if no reply received sol:?

Ker

4.10.34

Ag 5/10

A.P.

No reply has yet been received from the C.C. He was reminded on 14.9.34. A copy of the reminder now. A draft D.O. is sub. for approval.

Issue

RR

9/10.

10.10.34

Ag 15/10

Pages 54-57 Cf

C.No 2961-F) from the C.C. Ref. 4220/32-C
Dated 24.10.32

Noted.

Please see Secy's order at Page 29 ante, the Govt. to the C.C at Pages 51-52 Cf. and the C.C's reply thereto at Pages 52-53 Cf.

2 (i) As regards the question of intensive propaganda about green manure crops, attention is solicited to Govt. letter No. 1425 Dev dated 5-10-32 and Govt.'s minute at Page 6 ante for.

* Page 29 supra.

(A)

(ii) As regards ~~distribution of seeds~~ issuing of permits for leaf manure by Tank contractors, it is evident from the ~~letter~~ D.F.O's letter dt 12.9.32 at Page 55 C.F. ~~57~~ C.F. that the results of the experiment of issuing permits for removal of green leaf ~~and dry leaf~~ from the tanks at nominal rates are not encouraging. The D.F.O. ~~Nanjalar~~ states that not a single contractor was taken by him upon for a single head load, although the green leaf head load offer has been taken for 2½ months. The C.C. therefore states that in the absence of specific orders from Government, he does not consider himself entitled in recommending the issuing of free tanks. In the

Penal Page 57 C.F.

The reports on the position in regard to the leaf manure may be awaited until after April next Page 52 C.F.

circumstances, it is for orders whether the question of issuing permits for removal of green leaf and dry leaf from the Coupes, at nominal rates. Other than the four Coupes already known ~~as~~ in A on Pg 6 open for such permits may be offered. Permits may perhaps continue to be issued for sometime to come, till we exactly know the result of the experiment. The D.F.O. has already stated that he cannot report on the working of the Dry leaf Scheme till the next April.

2. The rates fixed by the D.F.O. with regard to the green & dry leaf heads at the four Coupes are —

	Rs. as. Ps.
Green leaf for heads	0 — 0 — 6
Dry leaf "	0 - 0 - 3

vide A on Pg 6 of

The C.C. states that these rates are abnormally low and need not be mentioned in any reply to the Planters' Associations — Please see Para 3 and 4 of C.C.'s letter at Pg 42 C/. The may perhaps be done

They must know it
to know it is abnor
RR
1911.

3. Atherton C. is also referred to. Petition marked A on Pg 7 of 1911 I / dated 26. 9. 24 - and also (R)

Portion marked A on Page 6 of Lodge 1894 Dated 9.10.24. In order whether the reports given Collector and given Conservator
59 Cr. Conservator
~~Asst Officers~~ will be placed before the table of the Leg. Council before the govt decision is announced. The H.M. said he would consider the suggestion
P. 49. (RR) Ans. Ans. orders are passed on Paras 2, 3 and 4 above, a letter may be sent to the Secretary S. Kanara Land holders association on the lines indicated in Para 4 of this note at Page 23 ante.

The Experiment of issuing permits for leaf manure 17.11.24 19.

thro' post contractors in the reserve other than where such issue has been entrusted may be dispensed.

As to the question of publishing the reports of the Conservator and the Collector (Pages 32-39 Cr.) with reference to the
Vide Flags (R) & (RR) interpellations in the Leg. Council, it is submitted that we need not publish them unless and until the matter is pursued in the Council. The decision of Govt may be communicated to the Association. The M.L.C. representing S. Kanara are certain to pursue the matter and the reports may then be made available to the Council if it is desired.

A

RS

Apparently concessional rates from coupes have been of no use as far as the green leaf is concerned; & we have to wait till the next collecting season to see if these Concessional rates are taken advantage of for dry leaf.

The notes of the Conservator & Collector at pp. 32 - 39 C.F. are, perhaps, in the colloquial manner. The last paragraph of the Collector's Note at any rate (for all the truth there is in it) must be omitted before these notes can be laid before the L.C.

Atty/11

H.M.C. 3

C3

When publishing the reports of the Collector and the Conservator, with the omissions mentioned by the Secretary, it will be desirable to intimate the public that the Government are not turning a deaf ear to the demands of the public regarding the issue of permits for leaf manure (both dry and green leaf) It is desirable that we should intimate that besides the four coupes already thrown open, some six more coupes will be thrown open to ryots at nominal rates for dry and green leaf on the permits issued by the contractors. Further, we shall also have to add that an intensive propaganda has been ordered about green manure and that the Director of Agriculture is doing his best in the matter.

2/ Public agitation is still going on and it is only right that we should meet them half-way or by going as far as possible for us to go. It is no doubt true that experience in the matter of issuing permits for leaf manure for fuel through contractors has not been very encouraging, but it is not the fault of the Government. If the ryots did not take leaf from selected coupes, it will be their own fault. Further it will be a good argument for defence for the Government. I, therefore, do not consider that want of success in that matter need stand in our way of extending the experiment to six more selected areas. The Chief Conservator of Forests may be asked to name 6 more ~~coupes~~ areas which may be thrown open and which are in his opinion likely to be utilised by the ryots.

KEK
20.11.34

Note.

With refce to Para 2 of Hon C3's minute at Page 32 ante, a Draft Ord. to the C.C. is submitted for approval. ~~The C.C. to be stated that~~ if this more than 2 cases are observed, the will have to ~~apply~~ for the appointment of this temporary Council ~~to control the Courts~~.

Draft for Approval 27/11/84

Issue. Prepare a draft order which may come before the next meeting of the Council.

RK 27/11.

Issued as Ord. No. 2760 T/32 — 9 Dated 29.11.82.

Note.

A Draft order is submitted for approval. Separate action will be taken to place the reports of the Conservator and the Collector on the Table.

Draft 1st 7/12/84 7/12/84

RK 8/12/84

Draft may be issued to the reduced ~~above~~ 14 days ~~two~~ substituted ~~as~~ 12th Please ~~put~~ up on the 14th

10.12.84

Draft for Rev... with the ...tion 4/11/85

To Dr.

Please see this minute ante. It is not known what the result of the deputation was. Revenue Dept. may be requested to send a copy of H.E.'s reply to the deputation if any. Very useful

RR 5.1.35

Rev

Dev-iii .276 i/35 5.1.35

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVT. 5 JAN 1935 REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Rev 113 5

Rev to Dept

To us

A copy of the notes (prepared by the P Sec) at the deputation of the S. Kanara Landholders Assn. is put up at (B'). It may be sent to Dev. ~~Department~~ ~~which has not received from the P Sec~~

Accts Sec 42/35 at (A) has already been sent to Dev

15.1.35 D 15.1.35

16.1.35 Dev

Dev Dept.

Accts Pursuant to note RR 17.1

Rev No 1132/34-1 16-1-35

To AS

Please see the portion marked in blue chalk at N 3 of (B') the draft order does not require any alteration with regard to this.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 17 JAN 1935 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

D. 333-1/35 17-1-35

letter from the CCF. at pages 54-60 CF. In view of the statement of the CCF on para 1 of the letter it is for consideration whether the portion marked A at page 4 of the draft order may be deleted.

3. The case may be circulated to HMC 2 with reference to this ~~note~~ order at page 35 supra.

RC
17.1.35.

HAK
17/1/35.

17/1/35.

H.M.C. 2

I have made a few changes in the draft which may be used tomorrow or on Monday. In the latter case the connected precedents in the Legal Council may be examined on Tuesday, when I believe the Council will be ready.

HAK
20.1.35.

17/1
25/1

Forwarded
for
20/1

	Date.	Initials.
When received for Fair-copying.		
When copied ..		
When examined ..		
When signed ..		
When despatched ..		

FORESTS.

S.Kanara - Withdrawal of concessions - Memorandum from the Landholders' Association - Orders passed.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. [illegible], dated [illegible] 19

.. .. ,, ,, 19

READ ALSO:—

C No. 2760-I From the Hony. Secy. S.Kanara, No. , dated 8-11- 19 33
Landholders Association.

,, ——— ,, ,, ,, ,, 19

.. .. ——— .. .. ,, ,, 19

ORDER.
Ms.

No. 134, dated 26. 1. 1935

In November 1933 the Honorary Secretary of the South Kanara Landholders Association submitted a memorandum to Government setting forth the hardships said to be experienced by the ryots of the district as a result of the withdrawal of the concessions granted to them in the matter of clearing undergrowth in and the free removal of green and dry leaf manure from some of the reserved forests. The points urged in the

memorandum were very carefully considered by the Government in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests. The Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and the Collector of South Kanara made a joint inspection of the Coondapur taluk in January 1934 after giving ample notice of the tour and the object of it to the ryots. It was reported by them that though the people were asked to show specific cases of hardship they did not come forward to do so. It was found that generally there is enough of leaf manure in unreserves and Kumaki lands; and that in every cattle stall visited by them there were ample supplies of litter and that stacks of manure were also found lying in fields waiting to be used In these circumstances, the Govt. do not consider that the withdrawal

of the concessions should be cancelled. It may be stated here that the concessions were withdrawn on distinct proof of abuse and the withdrawal already ordered does not apply to all the reserves in the district but only to some 17 reserves six of which are sandalwood reserves in North Mangalore division. As to the future, withdrawal, if found necessary on grounds of abuse, will be only on specific sanction to be obtained from the Govt. after clear warning and notice to the affected villages.

To meet cases where there is a demand for green or dry leaf and hardship would be caused if removal is not allowed, coupe contractors were asked by the Forest Dept. to issue permits for the removal of the manure leaf in four coupes on payment of a small fee-- six pies per headload of green leaf and three pies a headload of dry leaf

sion to ~~six~~ more coupes will also when need to contagio

The local officers ~~should~~ be instructed to afford as much assistance and relief as possible whenever specific cases of hardship are taken to their notice. The Director of Agriculture has been requested to arrange for intensive propaganda in the matter of ~~growth of~~ sowing green manure crops.

The memorandum refers to the depredations of wild animals, and states that the ryots are at the mercy of wild animals which devastate not only their crops but also kill several people. The joint inspection of the Conservator and the Collector showed that ~~the~~ arms licenses in the South Kanara district ~~were~~ are so numerous that the game has been largely shot out in the district.

In July 1934 the Honora.

requested that a Committee might be

appointed to enquire into the hard-
ships of the ryots. The Govt. have
considered the suggestion and do not
consider that any useful purpose will
be served by the appointment of a
committee.

R.R.
8-12-34.

To the C.C.F.

the Secy. S.Kanara
Landholders Association
(with C.L.)

Extract from Mr. Hedge's report of the deputation from the South Kanara Landholders' Association on H.E. the Governor on the 12th December 1934.

They next spoke about forest reserves in the district mentioned in paragraph 11 of their memorandum, and went on to urge the cancellation of the orders withdrawing the concessions in the forest reserves allowed to ryots to remove leaves, twigs, etc. which the ryots had been enjoying from time immemorial. They referred to the memorandum submitted by them to the Law Member (Appendix II at pages 38-43 of the memorandum) in regard to this, on which no orders had yet been passed. They also solicited a reference to the Hon'ble Mr. Robinson's report in full.

x x x x x

His Excellency said that he was very glad to have been able to hear their case personally. He realised that there were difficulties for landowners these days not only here but elsewhere also. He was sure that they would not expect him to say anything, but he assured them that he would go into the matter very carefully and have their representations examined. He expressed the hope that he might be able to pay a visit to their district sometime.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
18 APR 1935
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Ref. No. 69

1824

2 Q. Q. 35-

Kodialbail, Mangalore,

Dated 14th April, 193

From

M. R. Ry. K. R. Karant Avl., B. A., LL. B.,
Hon. Secretary, The South Kanara Landholders' Association,
MANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Government of Madras, Ootacamund.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of the proceedings of the II South Kanara District Landholders' Conference held on the 16th February 1935 and to draw your kind attention to resolution number IV therein.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

K. R. Karant

Note:
May be looked and filed with Go. Rt. No. dtd 26.1.35

RR 1.5.35

Dsi 20.5.35

Cs 1.5.35

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
18 APR 1935
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Proceedings of the Second South Kanara District Landholders' Conference held on Saturday the 16th February 1935 at 4 P. M. in the premises of the District Board Office at Mangalore, Mr. R. M. Palat, M. L. C., and President, District Board, Malabar, presiding.

There was a large gathering of the landholders from different parts of the district and amongst others the following were present:—

Messrs.

A. B. Shetty, M. L. C., President District Board, South Kanara, Dewan Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde, Advocate, Halsnad Madappaya, landholder, Kundapur, Molahalli Shiva Rao, Pleader and Member, District Board, N. Subba Rao, M. A., B. L., landholder, Udipi, Dr. K. Vittal Shetty, Chairman, Municipal Council, Mangalore, K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, B. A., B. L., Advocate, C. L. Lobo, B. A., B. L., Vakil, A. M. Mathais, landholder, Mangalore, J. A. Saldanha, Retired Assistant Sessions Judge, B. Gopalkrishnaya, landholder and retired Subordinate Judge, K. Sadashiva Adiga, Advocate and Member, District Board, K. Raguchandra Ballal, landholder and Member, District Board, M. Shankeranarayana Rao, Vakil, Kariangala Muthaya Shetty, landholder and Member, District Board, U. C. S. Bhat, M. L. C., Khan Bahadur Mahamad Schamnad, M. L. C., K. R. Karant, Vakil, Pandit Venkat Rao, landholder, M. Venkatesha Pai, landholder, T. N. Bhandary, Vakil, Kaudoor Srinivasa Hegde, landholder, Bailur, B. Vasudeva Rao, Advocate, Udipi, Kadekar Gopalkrishna Rao, landholder, Udipi, A. L. Pinto, landholder and Retired Deputy Collector, Pandit Shiva Rao, landholder, Dr. Adappa, landholder, and Municipal Councillor, B. M. D'Souza, landholder, and Municipal Councillor, P. Vasudeva Rao, Advocate, M. Ramakrishna Punja, landholder and Member, District Board, M. Sadashiva Rao, Vakil, Puttur, B. Mangesha Rao, Vakil, Puttur, Sullia Aithappa Rai landholder, Mahamad Scherule, landholder, Naganna Hegde, Municipal Councillor, Narayana Bhandary, Municipal Councillor and Karkal Sadashiva Bhat, Advocate, Karkal.

Mr. A. B. Shetty, M. L. C., and President, District Board, South Kanara who was the Chairman of the Reception Committee delivered a speech of which the following is a brief extract.

Mr. Shetty said that the agitation carried on by the Landholders' Association regarding the Scheme Report has till now proved futile. Several representations were made to the Government. A deputation proceeded to Madras and waited on His Excellency the Governor. Even an adjournment motion was moved and carried in the Legislative Council. This does not mean that agitation will not have the desired effect in the long run. Owing to the efforts made by the Association in the collection of the data, thanks to its Secretary, Mr. K. R. Karant, of a group of forest villages of the Puttur Taluk, a reduction of reveuue to the extent of Rs. 46,700/— and odd has been effected for about 55 villages of the Puttur and other taluks. The agtiation carried on regarding remission of revenue owing to failure of crops and decreased prices on produce has resulted in the remissions of a part of the kists in the last two years. If we had remained silent the increase in the Resettlement would have been even 18¾% instead of 12½%. This signifies that agitation is necessary and for that purpose the Association should strengthen its hands by the enlisting of more members. Further, the Association should be affiliated to a Provincial organisation so as to make its voice felt more effectively.

It might be remembered that the silence maintained during the last Resettlement resulted in an increase of revenue from 14 lakhs to 23 lakhs which worked at about 65%. But the present agitation carried on in all parts of the district has made all the land-owners know the real state of things.

Speaking about the hardship felt by the land-owners he said that owing to the increased Reserve Forests malaria was causing great havoc among the villagers. It might be known that the quantity of quinine allotted for free distribution is nearly one-third of the total quantity allotted to the whole province. Added to it the wild beasts from the forests prey upon the cattle maintained for agricultural purposes and even the Government statistics collected in this direction indicate that the loss is

several thousands in number every year. Now that there is to be an increase of revenue by Rs. 3 lakhs and more the lot of the over-burdened ryots of this district will be harder still. Pay us our assessment, no matter how you live, seems to be the policy of the Government.

Speaking about the system of Re-settlement recently introduced in the Punjab he said that it was different from that of Madras and was worth trying here also. The system here must be changed. Concluding he said that the agitation should be made more intensive, but that it should be not merely to fight the Government for the sake of fighting, but should be also constructive in improving the lot of the ryots.

Thereupon the President of the Conference delivered his speech.

He first thanked the Association for asking him to preside at the Conference and said that the neighbouring district of Malabar to which he belonged has practically the same conditions prevailing as those in South Kanara. Knowing the conditions there one could tell how hard it was for the land-ownes to pay the kists. The land-owners many a time had to pay the assesment by the selling off of their valuables and even the household goods. The condition of the richer land-owners was no better, and there were instances when they had to dispose off of their valuables and even cooking vessels to pay the kists.

Fixing the revenue rates for a lengthy period of thirty years was, in his opinion, faulty. It was not possible to fairly assess even for a period of two or three years. The system of the fixing of the land revenue in the Punjab, as he learnt, was a better one for the assessment was based on the annual prices of the produce. At present itself the land revenue was a heavy burden and collecting revenue at the enhanced rates would cause greater poverty. He considered that when the Reformed Government came into force there would be scope for reducing the assessment on land. He doubted that when the new Reforms come into force whether the grievances of these two isolated districts on the west coast will receive a just treatment. He opined that a meeting of the land-owners of both these districts should take place to discuss not only land assessment questions but also other problems pertaining to the two districts. The holding of a political conference, suggested by him, was necessary to discuss all the problems touching both the districts.

The following resolutions were then unanimously passed by the Conference.

I. This Conference is unanimously of opinion that the order of the Government, G. O. 42, Rev. 5—1—1935, resettling the South Kanara District is highly unjust, and works great hardship on the ryots of the district at a time of keen economic depression when they are finding it very difficult to pay even the existing revenue.

This Conference regrets to find that the G. O. in question does not meet the important points urged in the memorandum of objections filed by the South Kanara Landholders' Association to the Resettlement Scheme Report and reiterated by the deputation before His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

This Conference requests Government to hold a public enquiry into the mistakes of the last settlement in this district.

This Conference appeals to the Government to suspend resettlement and the collection of the enhanced revenue.

This Conference also appeals to the Government to cancel forthwith the February kist which is absolutely unworkable and is causing great hardship to the majority of the ryots of the district who are unable to collect the rents from the tenants for which the due dates are usually the 30th Magha (end of February) and 30th Phalguna (end of March) of the Hindu year, and also because in the month of February the price of rice in the district is comparatively low. The kists should be only March, April and May in equal instalments.

Proposed by Dr. K. Vittal Shetty.

Seconded by Mr. J. A. Saldanha.

Supported by Mr. A. M. Mathias.

Halsnad Madappaya.

II. This Conference is of opinion that the present land revenue system and the principles governing resettlement have become quite unsuited to the actual conditions now prevailing in the ryotwari areas in this province and therefore requests the Government to overhaul the same with a view to lighten the burden of land revenue taxation upon the agricultural population of these areas.

Proposed by Diwan Bahadur B. M. Hegde.
Seconded by Mr. M. Shankernarayana Rao.

III (a). This Conference considers that the amount of suspension in the land revenue granted in this fasli is absolutely meagre and insufficient to meet the stingency and needs of the situation. It regrets to find that the recent resolution of the Madras Legislative Council for a remission of 33⅓% of the revenue has been treated with contempt as waste paper by the Government. This Conference strongly urges that the said resolution ought to be given effect to by Government and requests the Government accordingly.

(b). This Conference desires to bring to the notice of the Government that the suggi or the second wet and the cereal crops of the district have been, in most parts of the district, an unprecedented failure owing the early cessation of the south-west monsoon and the failure of the north-east monsoon. This Conference, therefore, requests Government to give remission of assessment to the extent of the second crop charges out of the revenue.

Proposed by Mr. K. Raghuchandra Ballal.
Seconded by Mr. B. Mangesh Rao.

IV. This Conference having considered G. O. 134 Mis. Development dated 26—1—1935 with regard to the withdrawal of concessions in certain reserved forests of this district is unanimously of opinion that the report of the Conservator of Forests and the Collector of South Kanara, on which the Government base their said order, is not just and correct and that in fact much hardship is being experienced by the concerned ryots in obtaining leaf manure.

This Conference regrets that the Government have not been pleased to order an enquiry into the matter and resolves to appoint the following committee to inspect the areas concerned and after proper enquiry with public notice of their programme to prepare a report with regard to the said hardships of the ryots concerned.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

(1) Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao.
(2) Mr. Halsnad Madappya.
(3) Mr. K. R. Karant, (Secretary to the Committee).

The Committee is requested to submit their report to the Executive Committee of the South Kanara Landholders' Association in 3 months from this date and the said Committee may deal with the matter in such manner as it deems fit.

Proposed by Mr. B. Soorappa Hebbara.
Seconded by Mr. Sullia Aithappa Rai.

V. This Conference emphatically protests against the continued apathy of the Government of India in the matter of the dumping of foreign rice into the Madras markets thereby rendering the position of the Madras ryots unbearable. This Conference suspects that the Government of India is, in respect of this matter, more solicitous about the British exports to the concerned foreign countries than the interests of the Madras rice cultivators.

This Conference therefore requests the Government of India to impose without further delay sufficiently high protective tarriffs on foreign rice and thereby save the ryots from utter ruin.

Proposed by Khan Bahadur Mahamad Schamnad Bahadur, M. L. C.,
Seconded by Mr. Kaudoor Srinivasa Hegde.

VI. This Conference requests the South Kanara Landholders' Association to take up constructive work as part of its activities such as the introduction and popularisation of commercial and manurial crops among the ryots of the district and the improvement of village industries.

Proposed by Mr. N. Subba Rao.
Seconded by Mr. Karkal Sadashiva Bhat.

VII. This Conference is strongly of opinion that G. O. 42 Revenue dated 5—1—1935 is illegal and ultra vires in as much as it approves and sanctions the assessment of land at rates exceeding the time honoured and well established standard rates of land revenue namely half the net profit from the land even assuming (incorrectly) that the settlement practices—as distinguished from settlement principles—adopted for the settlement of 1902 are correct, since the resettlement rates are mere percentage enhancement of the rates of assessment of (1902) settlement, and authorises the Committee consisting of the following members with powers to co-opt to go into the matter forthwith and take necessary steps, legal or otherwise in the matter on behalf of the members of the South Kanara District Landholders' Association.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

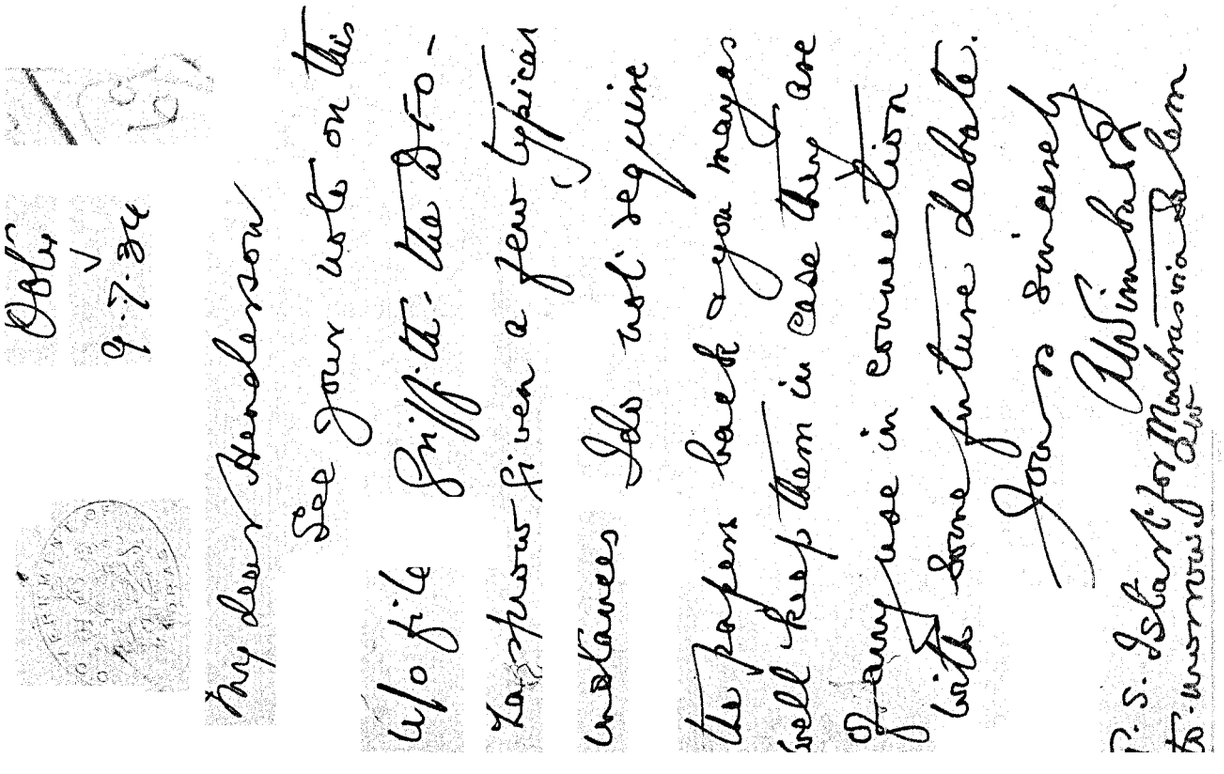
Messrs. (1) Kalmady Laxminarayana Rao, Advocate,
(2) K. Sadashiva Adiga, Advocate,
(3) U. C. S. Bhat, Vakil, M. L. C., (mover),
(4) M. Shiva Rao,
(5) B. Vasudeva Rao,
(6) J. A. Saldanha.

Proposed by Mr. U. C. S. Bhat, Vakil, M. L. C.
Seconded by Mr. N. Rajagopalkrishna Rao.
Supporters:— Dr. K. Vittal Shetty.
Mr. B. Vasudeva Rao.

VIII. This Conference authorises the Secretary to communicate the resolutions to the concerned authorities and requests the M. L. Cs and M. L. As to take the necessary action in the matter.

Proposed by Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao,
Seconded by Mr. Mahammad Scherule.

With the closing remarks of the President and a vote of thanks to the chair and to those assembled proposed by Mr. K. R. Karant, Secretary of the Landholders' Association, the Conference terminated.



420-34-1

Extract from the diary of A.L.Griffith, Esq., Dt.Forest Officer, Mangalore North, for week ending 26.5.1934.

70

CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
3 JUN 1934
MADRAS

Tuesday, May 22nd.

Inspected Kasankatte R.F. I also inspected ~~xxx~~ some lands which were interesting from a concessions ramp point of view.

A man had kumaki and got 35 acres of it assigned to him on darkhast. As it was kumaki he paid no seigniorage on the tree growth. His assessment for it is Rs.13-14-0 per annum. He sold the timber and fuel on it for Rs.800/- and everything has been cut and removed.

The climax is that he (~~saw~~/~~Gambers~~) now complains about concession removal as he has no manure leaf for his lands or fuel for domestic purpose!.!!

This is not an isolated case and I ~~xxx~~ can give names and survey numbers.

'll get — if wanted

Dy 4/6/34

~~xx~~/6 (M. 1135-3/34) a.o. to the C C F

I suggest this might be mentioned as an illustration of how even S. Kanara ryots are fallible human (like the 7. dept) when the Secretariat is drafting reply to "concession questions"

C.F.G. 4/6/34.

C/o To Mr Henderson. Dev. Sec:

I do not contemplate any action on this but it is of interest in connection with recent developments in Kanara.

A.E.Simpson 12-6-34 C.C.F.

Sub: to C.C.

(No papers reqd)

Cf

Sen. Branches. A collection of similar cases if it is not too much trouble to collect them might be quite useful if the subject comes up — as it is sure to do — in

Conservation of forests and rights

JUN 1934

A/O Returned to Mr Hinchliffe.

2) I suggest that you might get the D.C.O. to give you chapter & verse of a few occurrences such as this one & then send the papers to the C.I.C. before you go on leave.

3) Mr Henderson's note had better not go into any office at present.

4) I do not want the D.C.O. to spend too much time on this collection of quasi-political matter which, I, personally, think may never be made practical use of. RWS

Submitted A/O to the Commissioner

I enclose a list of some typical cases near Wandsa. The petitioner has a perfect right to call the tree-path having got the land as described but no cause of action would exist against unauthorised assertions

[illegible] 5/7

Fd. (A.O)
A. F. Tie
9/7/24

Typical cases of pattadars taking Kumaki land on darkhast (without payment of assessment) & then selling the trees growth as stated.

	Survey No.	Area acres.	assessment.	
Alur Village				
①. Potail Laxminarayana Joisha	155	4-76	2-6-0	Tree growth sold in 1933 for Rs 800/-
	156	5-91	2-15-0	
	157	5-59	2-13-0	
	158	4-08	2-1-0	
	159	9-02	4-8-0	
	161	8-35	4-3-0	
Adiveer - Kumbadi				
①. Halsinaben Venkatayya Shetti	2	2-45	1-13-0	Tree growth sold in 1932-33
②. Gulabchi Nandyappa Shetti	T.A.	4-33	3-4-0	
③. Halsinaben Venkatayya Shetti.	2	2-46	1-14-0	

A. Shetti
5/7/34

South Kanara.

1. Are there classes of trees in unreserves.?

2. Are the unreserves under Forest or Revenue Department.?

3. What are Kumaki lands.?

4. Did the President of the South Kanara Landholders Association attend the enquiries after being specially informed of the tours of the Collector and Conservator.?

5. Reports of officers?

above. Submitted yes. Please see Rule 4 of the General Rules for the management of Reserved and Unreserved Lands under Section 26 of the Madras Forest Act at p.33 of the Forest Manual.

2. The unreserves are under the control of the Revenue Dept. Please see Sub. para 2 Rule 3 of the above Rules at p.33 of the Manual.

3. Please see Rule 7.A at pp 34-35 of the Manual.

4. Submitted no. When he found that the Collector and the Conservator were properly warned, he seems to have stated to them that there was not much difficulty there. On the Collector stating that they may then go on to Nirimanjeshwara, he excused himself from coming. Some seems to have said that he would send word to the people to come and represent their grievances

5. Attention is invited to the reports of officers in the following Govs.-

(1) Pages 71 - 125 of Cyc. 1189 Dated 10.6.30 (H)
(2) Pages 1 - 49 of Cyc. 1426 Dated 2.11.32 (W)
(3) Pages 24 - 29 of Cyc. 682 Dated 7.6.33 (V)
(4) Communication to the Council at pp 36-39 of Cyc. 1037 Dated 29.8.35 (E)

(5) The Joint Report of the Collector and the Conservator on their tours in January 1934 is in the file dealing with the memorandum of the S.R. Land Holders' Assn. now with H.M.

S.O.
16.7.36.

Hosea is a reserved tree
Its Tamil name is Irulbogam
& Kannada .. is Kirallbhogi
There is no Telugu equivalent

K
28.7

Council Office
3-7-34

Starred question.

Mr.U.C.Subrahmanya Bhatt
The Development Department.

File with Sec'y

*4. Will the Hon.the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ryots for S.Kanara depend largely for manure, for fuel and for grazing purposes on the Government forests of the District and whether it was on that account that the seignorage which was being levied till then was abolished in about 1922;

(b) whether the grazing concessions to ryots in South Kanara granted have been ordered to be cancelled; if so for what reasons:

(c) whether the withdrawal of the concessions was due to the fact that the Government accepted the alternative proposals of the Forest Officer Mr. Padmanabha Pillai to supply the needs of the department from the unreserve areas, in the place of the working plans submitted by the special officer about 2 or 3 years ago to work the reserve forests;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Forest department with a view to withdraw the concessions began to blame the villagers as having abused the privileges;

(e) whether it is a fact that the question of abuses of privileges was enquired into by the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Collector;

Council Office
5-7-34

starred question.

Mr. G. Sivasubramaniya Mudaliar to move the
The Development Department.

4. Will the Hon. the Law Member be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Typle for C.Kenaris
depend largely for manure for Tea
and for grazing purposes on the
Government forests of the District
and whether it was on that account
that the seigniorage which was being
levied till then was abolished in
about 1928;

(b) whether the concessions granted have been ordered to be
cancelled; if so for what reasons;

(c) whether the withdrawal of the
concessions was due to the fact that
the Government accepted the alternate
proposals of the Forest Officer Mr.
Padmanabha Pillai to supply the needs of
Department from the Reserves
areas, in the place of the working
plans submitted by the special officer
about 2 or 3 years ago to work the
reserve forests;

(d) whether it is a fact that the
Forest department with a view to withdraw
the concessions began to plead the
villagers as having abused the privileges;

(e) whether it is a fact that the
question of abuse of privileges was
enquired into by the Chief Conservator
of Forests or the Collector;

*4 (Cont.)

(f) whether the said officers reported that the question of abuses could not be definitely proved or established;

(g) whether the Government would restore the privileges in view of the fact that the charge of abuse on which the privileges were withdrawn has not been proved or established?

Krc.

Mr. (Cont.)

(d) whether the said officers reported that the question of abuses could not be satisfactorily proved or established;

(e) whether the Government would restore the privileges in view of the fact that the charge of abuse could not be proved or established;

(f) whether the said officers were not been promised on establishment;

Yours

5 11.1

VE

Under Sec
N/18.7.34

Def. Deptt.

G.M. No. 1842 I/34-1 N/18-7-34

PB 1-2-1

A copy of the starred question ~~note~~ proposed to be asked by ~~Mr. Abdul Subhan~~ a blank in the ensuing session of the N.C. is forwarded to the C.C.F. who is requested to furnish the necessary information immediately.

To the C.C.F. with a copy of the N.C. question

N/10.7.34.
SA.
15.7.34.

IVC
6.7

16/7

Reminder to go

FOREST **DEPARTMENT.**

Received ..... 19 *Registered* 19

Subject.

Legislative Council Question No.4 (Starred)
withdrawal of concessions in South Kanara District.

ENCLOSURES.
No.
Spare copies--

Ref. No. 5383/34.C1.

Station Madras *Dated the* 13th August 1934

From (Name) A. Wimbush Esq., I.F.S.

(Designation) Chief Conservator of Forests

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Development Department.

Sir

Ref: Government Memorandum No. 1842-I/34-1
dated 18th July 1934.

(a) No: free grazing was ever allowed to the ryots in South Kanara District. The concessions that were with-drawn were those which were known as the South Kanara concessions. But these did not include any grazing concessions.

2. (b) The attention of Government is invited to the reply to clauses (b) and (e) of Legislative Council Question No. 5 submitted in this office Reference

Reference No. 856/34.C2, dated 8th August 1934.

3 (c) The question whether the ryots had real grievances from the withdrawal of the concessions was investigated by the Collector of South Kanara and the Conservator of Forests. Ootacamund Circle. They submitted a joint report to Government in the matter vide Government unofficial note No. 903-I/34, dated 21-3-1934.

4. (d) No. Vide answer to (c) above.

C. [illegible] 13.8

for Chief Conservator.

ks.13.8.34.

13.8.34

DESPATCHED
13 AUG 1934

No. 23/56 D/26

Starred question.

M. M. C. Subramanyan Bhatt.

Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grazing concessions granted to ryots in S. Kanara have been ordered to be cancelled; if so for what reasons;

(b) whether the withdrawal of the concessions was due to the fact that the Govt. accepted the alternative proposals of the Forest Officer, Mr. Padmanabha Pillai to supply the needs of the Dept. from the unreserve areas, in the place of the working plans submitted by the Special Officer about 2 or 3 years ago to work the reserve forests.

(c) whether it is a fact that the question of abuse of privileges was enquired into by the C.C.F on the collective

(d) whether the said Officers reported that the question of abuses could not be definitely proved or ever attributed

Draft answer

(a) No free grazing was ever allowed to the ryots in S. Kanara DV

The concessions that were withdrawn in some of the reserves were those which were known as the South Kanara (Forest) Concessions which did not include any grazing Concessions.

(b) The Hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (b) & (c) of question no. 5

(c) The attention of the Hon. Member is invited to the reports of the Forest Officers regarding the abuse of the concessions in the reserved Forests of South Kanara which were laid on the table of the House in October 1933

(d) No

RR 2.8.34 Ho 2/8

X/20.8.34

Van Post	20-8-34

(The above answer was laid on the table of the House) (3)

egislative Council Questior

No. 4 (Starred)

Mr. U.C.Subrahmanya Bhatt.

Will the Hon'ble the Law Member be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the grazing concessions granted to ryots in South Kanara have been ordered to be cancelled, if so for what reasons;

(b) whether the withdrawal of the concessions was due to the fact that the Government accepted the alternative proposals of the Forest Officer Mr. Padmanabha Pillai to supply the needs of the Department from the unreserve areas, in the place of working plans submitted by the Special Officer about 2 or 3 years ago to work the reserve forests;

(c) whether it is a fact that the question of abuse of privilages was enquired into by the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Collector

(d) whether the said officers reported that the question of abuses could not be definitely proved or established

Development Department.

A N S W E R.

(a) No free grazing was ever allowed to the ryots in South Kanara District. The concessions that were withdrawn in some of the reserves were those which were known as the South Kanara forest concessions which did not include any grazing concessions.

(b) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to clauses (b) and (e) of question No.5.

(c) The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the reports of the Forest officers regarding the abuse of the concessions in the reserved Forests of South Kanara which were laid on the table of the House in October 1933.

(d) No.

C. A. Henderson
Secretary to Government.

Fort St.George,
23rd August 1934

To the Council Office.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sir K.V. Reddi Nayudu Kt.

F o r w a r d e d
(By Order)

D. Rajamani 21.8.34.
Superintendent.

Withdrawal of grazing concessions in South Kanara.

153 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the grazing concessions granted to ryots in South Kanara have been ordered to be cancelled; if so, for what reasons;

(*b*) whether the withdrawal of the concessions was due to the fact that the Government accepted the alternative proposals of the Forest Officer, Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, to supply the needs of the department from the unreserve areas, in the place of the working plans submitted by the special officer about two or three years ago to work the reserve forests;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the question of abuses of privileges was enquired into by the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Collector; and

(*d*) whether the said officers reported that the question of abuses could not be definitely proved or established?

A.—(*a*) No free grazing was ever allowed to the ryots in South Kanara district. The concessions that were withdrawn in some of the reserves were those which were known as the South Kanara forest concessions which did not include any grazing concessions.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (*b*) and (*e*) of question No. 152.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reports of the Forest officers regarding the abuse of the concessions in the reserved forests of South Kanara which were laid on the table of the House in October 1933.

(*d*) No.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Will the Hon. Member be pleased to place on the table of the House the report from the Collector and the Conservator of Forests?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI:—"I will consider the suggestion."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the Collector and the Conservator of Forests gave any notice to the associations which made representations to prove their case, before they enquired into the matter?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI:—"I should think so; in fact one of the Members of the Legislative Council was given notice.

QUESTION.—No. 14 for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the 15th Aug 1934

8 JUL 1934 SECRETARIAT AGENDA DEPARTMENT

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the Rev Department.

The Question has been admitted.

4 7/7/1934

U.O. No. *dated*

To

The Rev Department.

Clerk
Y.Y.

To Asst Secy

Rev Dept

Please see the L.C. question in the C.L. No information is available here regarding the cancellation of any grazing concessions in the South Kanara Dist. Limited title IV deals with the withdrawal of the forest concessions regarding removal green leaf manure, small timber, dry leaves, fuel etc. The intention of the M.L.C. seems to be to elicit answers regarding any closure to examine as a result of the adoption of the working plan referred to in clause (b) of the question. The L.C. may be asked to

furnish the necessary information

A draft G.M. is submitted for approval.

RL 16/7/34

S 16/7

N 10-7-34.

DA. 16-7-34

P 3 c/

[Issued as G.M. No. 1842 I/34-1 dt 18-7-1934

PP 4-5 c/ | From the C.C.F. No. 5383/34-C1 dt 13-8-1934]

Jo Asst Secy

Please see the question at P.P 1-2 c/ and the C.C's letter at PP 4-5 c/.

clause (h)

Please see para 2 of the C.C's letter at PP 4-5 c/ drawing the Hon member's attention to the answer to clauses (b) & (e) of question No. 5 in Unstarred file I

P 8 (1-2-1 21-1-34)

clause (c) ~~& (d)~~

The question of abuses/the privileges was not enumerated

This is not what is referred to in this clause.

but the collection of the Conservator made a joint tour in the Coondapur taluk to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions

The clause refers to the enquiries made by the Forest Settlement Officer in connection with the withdrawal of concessions in Bilikal

joint report to be submitted

The C.C. Sent report of D.F.O. & Conservator Refer to them - they were also with the Govt of Madras

Under the consideration of Govt

The Hon member may be invited to the answer to question No 15 (3) answered in clause (d) The answer may in the negative as suggested by the C.C. Council on 1-8-34 in Unstarred file II

House RL 7-8-34

A draft answer is submitted for approval

34-39 q 1033 (F)

N/17-8-34.

DA.

To Asst Secy

With reg. to Asst Secy's [illegible] remarks at P. 1. ante
a revised draft answer is submitted for
approval.

RK
21.8.34.

20.8.34.
A.A.
20.8.34.

H.M.C's Law
22.8.34

To Ai.

Please see the Minutes
proceedings after reg. Counsel at
Pages 8 Ch. and the Certain marked
A thereon. Attention is also invited
to ~~this~~ note at Pages 92 - 94 of Fo.
134 Mis Dev Delhi 1934

In the Criminal Law
Amendment Committee's Report the relevant
extracts and the Collector at Pages
32 - 39 of the Fo. may be placed on
the table of the Council. Relevant
memorandum, a draft note to be placed
on the table of the house is submitted
for approval.

Dy Secy 24.8.34 JAR

RK
18.2.35 J.

JR
[illegible]

For orders Director H.M. agrees with the proposed Excision of certain passages in the report at pp. 32 – 39 of of (5); – Lord with any other passages Excised

Att 6/2

ai 19.2.35

H.M.C.2 | I should like to see a proof copy, before it is sent to Lord Rep.[d] Secy

KCR
19.2.35

9.Ai.

A draft Order giving communication to Council of extracts [illegible] with reports of H.M.'s [illegible]

Draft 28.2.35

orders above.

ai 2.3.35
AH 3.3.35

JaR
1.3.35

1.3.35 S. Att 2/3

H.M.C.2 KCR
3.3.35

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

With reference to the answer given to the supplementary question to question No. 153, at the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on 22nd October 1934, copies of the notes of inspection of the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle, and the Collector of South Kanara, regarding the abuse of forest concessions in South Kanara are laid on the table of the House.

C. A. HENDERSON—19-2-35.

Notes of Inspection about Concessions in the South Kanara district, by Mr. A. F. Minchin, Conservator of Forests.

The Conservator and Collector of South Kanara, camped at Vandse from January 8th to 16th. The Collector was accompanied by Revenue staff including Tahsildar. The object of the tour had been to hear complaints, if any, connected with the withdrawal of the concessions, the Collector's establishment having told the populace in advance that this was the object.

2. Near Vandse is Mudaregudde Reserve in which concessions have been withdrawn since April 1933. No complaints were brought forward. Nor indeed was it to be expected as in these inland reserve localities the vegetation in unreserves, kumaki and private land is abundant and there never has been any pressure on the reserve.

However the Collector received three petitioners who came from Baindur and Kirimanjeshwar. (These were gentlemen who have generally appeared to voice local grievances in connexion with forests.) I understand that they did not relish the idea of being questioned individually.

3. Mr. Gawne, the Collector, Mr. Griffith, the District Forest Officer, myself, and a legal gentleman from Mangalore (Mr. Lobo) organized beats in the local forests to try to kill a local man-killing panther that has killed 30 people and has become a serious menace on a tract of about 50 square miles. We spent most of the days in this pursuit, and the villagers of the locality threw themselves into the business with eagerness. We had some 50 volunteer beaters daily and sometimes as many as 41 guns, local muzzle-loaders in addition to our own armament. We took turns to accompany the beaters ourselves; and the Collector and District Forest Officer lent weapons to individuals; so we got on friendly terms with the villagers. *Yet throughout the visit we were not addressed at all on the subject of any forest grievances*

4. We examined systematically the reserves suspected of harbouring the panther, our desire being (in case of a kill occurring) to have enough familiarity with the country to organize beats successfully. Actually the panther has not killed since the end of November when it killed a woman and it *may* have died a natural death.

From Vandse we moved camp to Kirimanjeshwar.

5. Kirimanjeshwar was indicated for purposes of our quest because in Mr. Hegde's report he singles it out, describing the plight of cultivators as "really pitiful." The object was to see examples of hardship connected with the lack of leaf manure for cultivation. The practice in cultivation in South Kanara is to collect green leaf in the rainy weather principally and at other times to collect dry fallen leaves. Women and children collect dry leaf in baskets and carry it to the stalls in which cultivators keep their cattle stall-fed for the sake of manure. (I have always been told by deputations that this collection of dry leaf is what they set the most store by. Hence located coupes are no use to them; they must have the run of whole reserves, etc.).

The cattle are bedded down on leaf-litter on which succeeding layers are superimposed. The leaf-litter absorbs urine and droppings; and at intervals the whole collection is removed to a backyard or field where it is stacked ready for being dug into the fields.

6. On the morning succeeding our arrival, we visited the fields of Ulluru. The Tahsildar had been told to select for our inspection a really distressed locality, i.e., a village most deficient in resources for securing its leaf.

We entered a very extensive paddy-flat on which, it being January, a crop of horsegram was being raised.

Cultivators working nearby gathered round and spoke of their hardships for lack of leaf and the Revenue Inspector put before us the case of the villagers. Particularly our attention was called to the poor condition of the horsegram crop. It is to be remarked that this is a locality close to the sea and the soil is extremely light and sandy. It gives therefore an impression of unfertility. We were not actually impressed by the poorness of the said crop.

As we were moving from this field, some manure protruding from the ground met Mr. Griffith's eye; and closer examination revealed that the ground had actually been manured with leaf manure comparatively recently, and by no means sparsely.

7. Mr. Gawne led us then into the adjoining village. We entered all the cattle-stalls that we came to see whether there was shortage of leaf-litter in the stalls, to see to what extent green leaf was mixed with the dry, and to verify the various species of leaves that were used for preference.

8. During our progress a local gentleman called (I think) Mr. Ananda Shetty spoke authoritatively on behalf of the villagers; and left us in no doubts about the hardships from which they suffered; but as to where we could see cattle-sheds deficient in leaf manure he was not so positive. When visiting Todar locality last year the District Forest Officer and I came to the conclusion that hardship for owners of kumaki lands was most unlikely; that cultivators without kumaki lands could get their requirements easily from unreserves; and that the people who really were likely to experience hardship were those, who being without influence, were prevented by stronger neighbours from availing themselves of leaf from the unreserves. We were in fact told at Todar that there is a practice by influential ryots of assuming a claim over a piece of unreserve and excluding other villagers.

9. Leaving the village we climbed the hill-top to get a general view, and see what proportion of the country was paddy field requiring manure, and what proportion was private forest or unreserve or reserved forest. We saw that the greater part of the locality bears forest growth, although in unreserve portions it has been chopped and cut about and reduced to somewhat low dimensions. We then went towards Herur reserve passing on our way through some specimens of private forest, i.e., kumaki, and we saw that a watchman was kept in charge; and that the protection was excellent and the condition of the tree-growth very flourishing. This is in fact a locality in which tree-growth *can* easily be promoted in almost any poor ground unprofitable for cultivation. There is no district in the Presidency where the fact is better realized by the rural inhabitants.

At one point in the unreserve, the well-cared for appearance of the tree-growth was commented upon by us. The Revenue Inspector replied that it so happened this land had been proposed by him for allotment to local Adi-Dravidas.

This brought Ananda Shetty to his feet and he expressed himself vigorously about the inequity of this gift to the Adi-Dravidas protesting that for generations his family had "conserved" this piece of unreserve or communal ground.

"Conserved" in this case means utilized and protected from use by other villagers, and the exclusion of others from land that he pays Government nothing for and has no real claim to is entirely illegal. There was thus confirmation of what we had been told at Todar; and to which I referred above, namely that the more powerful ryots "jump claims" on pieces of unreserve, (i.e., communal land) and keep out their weaker brethren, but are strong advocates of the free use of reserved forests for all the population.

On our return to the camp, the Collector pressed the Tahsildar to show us instances of hardship.

10. On the following day we visited another village, Nandanavana, said to be suffering specially from lack of manure-leaf. The Collector had impressed on villagers and on his own staff his desire to be shown individual examples of people who were badly off, not merely to be told generalizations about hardships. But our inspection on this day was no more successful than before, so far as finding hard cases was concerned. In every cattle stall that we visited there were ample supplies of litter and in the fields stacks of manure waiting to be used.

11. Incidentally the Collector took every opportunity of telling the cultivators how much loss of virtue the manure suffers when according to the local practice it is left in the sun and rain unprotected. The advantage of erecting a rough thatched pandal over manure heaps was explained.

12. Still entreating our guides to show us examples of cattle stalls deficient in leaf we were led away half a mile by an individual who claimed that his cattle had to stand on the bare ground. We found however that they were being penned in a field while elsewhere a new stable was being built. This therefore failed to convince.

13. Within three or four miles of this village is a reserve Kursegudde in which we have more than once proposed to the villagers to establish a coupe in which leaf might be cut. The proposal never has aroused enthusiasm. We are always given a number of reasons (none of them convincing) why it is out of the question for villagers to make use of such a coupe.

In this locality, i.e., close to the coast north of Coondapoor, many acres of forest are clear-felled by forest coupe contractors. We have always expressed to deputations our wonder that people short of leaf manure should not get from these coupes either the green leaf on the branches of the felled trees, or dry leaf collected from the ground. The coupe contractors say that nobody approaches them to be allowed to take such leaf, although they are only too ready to dispose of it.

14. The general upshot of our visit was that when Mr. Hegde speaks of the pitiful condition of the people round Kirimanjeshwar somebody has been misrepresenting matters to him. But we are far from claiming that because no satisfactory instances of hardship were brought to our notice in Kirimanjeshwar and Vandse localities therefore no hardships or " hard cases " exist.

We are ready to be convinced of the existence of hard cases which inevitably *must* exist somewhere; and it is possible that some whole communities may be in a bad way. If so, it is up to the representatives of the people to ask us to come and look into such cases. There should be a truce to " general " complaints until we have been shown conclusive individual hard cases.

Where hardship exists it may or may not be possible for the Revenue and Forest departments to mitigate them. We do object however to giving the population the uncontrolled use of entire reserves, a practice which in our experience has led to serious abuses, and which nullifies our own control over our lower subordinates.

A. F. MINCHIN,
Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund Circle.

Supplementary note by the Collector of South Kanara.

I have little to add to what Mr. Minchin has set down; he has given an account of our tour with which I am in complete agreement. The tour which took place from January 8th to 18th was decided upon as early as November and every opportunity was taken to advise villagers that the Conservator and the Collector were coming up together. Mr. Mahabala Hegde was told explicitly as he had taken the Landholders' memorandum to Madras. When he found that we were going to Wandse he stated that there was not much difficulty there; I then added that we should go on to Kirimanjeshwar. He excused himself from coming too but said that he would send word to the people to come and represent their grievances.

As the Conservator remarks, no one in the neighbourhood of Wandse had any grievances to ventilate but on about the third day a deputation arrived from the coast. We were just going out and so I told the Tahsildar that while we were out he should record statements from each member of the deputation, detailing the land that he had to cultivate, the kumaki at his disposal and the difficulties that he was now put to. When I returned the Tahsildar said that the members of the deputation had refused to give individual statements and had emphasized that they spoke on behalf of the ryots generally.

On other occasions I have noticed that the people prefer to come in a mob and individuals dislike being singled out and questioned about their own needs and facilities.

was struck by the unreasonable attitude which was taken up against the proposal that there should be a system of organized coupes in the reserve forests where the removal of green and dry leaf would be done

under control. The first argument generally used against such coupes was that they were far too far away. When however it is pointed out that the reserve forests were just as far away in the old days, then the next argument was that any charge for removal of green or dry leaf would be out of the question. That there should be free removal is not necessary in my opinion; for I have not found that there is any objection to paying for the removal of leaf in the 'panchayat' forests which are under popular management. In this district a panchayat forest is intended solely for leaf and the income from grazing is negligible. Those forests are in nearly all cases areas which have been under panchayat management from time immemorial. In olden days they were not called panchayat forests but 'Ten Men's Forests.' In these areas the payment for each 'knife' has been universally recognized as necessary to provide funds for the necessary watching of the area. So too in reserve coupes if it was made clear that the charges which would be levied were for the employment of the necessary watchmen, I do not think that the imposition of a fee for removing green or dry leaf could be construed as a hardship. There is no reason why persons who are near a reserve forest area should get for nothing what others have always paid for from a revenue forest area.

The result of our camp was also to show that the time-honoured cliché that the South Kanara ryot cultivates with immense difficulty land adjoining forests 'infested with wild beasts' is becoming little more than the survival of a tradition. The arms licences in this district are so numerous that the game has been largely shot out. I have often asked ryots to show me crops damaged by wild animals but they always have an excuse for not being able to. No doubt there is damage done now and then by pig and in a few places like Sampaje by elephants, but very largely the enemies of the cultivator are the jackal and the monkey, which are to be found in every district.

M. GAWNE
Collector.

Dev. 3209-I
19-12-33

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Ref. No. 52

ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT 19 DEC 1933 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Kodialbail, Mangalore,

Dated 13th December 1933.

FROM

M. R. Ry. K. R. Karant Avl., B. A., LL. B.,
Hon. Secretary, The South Kanara Landholders' Association,
MANGALORE.

To Dev. S.
M.O.S. 38
18.12.

To

The Hon. The Law Member,

To the Government of Madras.

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith a true copy of the Proceedings of the First South Kanara Land-Holders' Conference held at Puttur on 3-12-1933, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, M.L.C., presiding -- and to request that Government may be pleased to take proper and speedy action on the resolutions contained therein.

I beg to invite your particular attention to resolution No. IV therein.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

K. R. Karant

Proceedings of the First Conference of the Land-holders of South Kanara held at 5 P.M. of Sunday, the 3rd December 1933 in the premises of the Higher Elementary School at Puttur.

The gathering consisted of more than 1000 land-holders representing all taluks of the district.

Amongst the prominent persons present were the following:-

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty, M.L.C. of Madras, Dewan Bahadur B.Mahabala Hegde, Mr. A.B.Shetty, President, District Board and M.L.C., Mr. U.C.S.Bhat, M.L.C., Mr. Mahamad Shamnad, M.L.C., Dr. K.Vittal Shetty, Dr. H.V.Adapa, Mr. J.A.Saldanha, Mr. K.R.Karant, Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao, President Puttur Taluk Board, Mr. K.S. Adiga, Mr. Gollarkeri Krishma Rao, Mr. G. Somasekhara Rao, Mr. K.R.Achar, Mr. Dharmasthal Manjaya Hegde, Mr. Kasargod Narasinga Nayak, Mr. B.Mangesh Rao, Mr. M.Ramakrishna Punja, Mr. J.Naganna Hegde, Rao Saheb M.Anantha Rao, Mr. Bailur Vasudeva Rao, Mr. H.Dasanna Alva, Mr. B. Manjaya Hegde, Mr. M.N.Chouta and several members of the Puttur Bar.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty was unanimously voted to the chair.

Dewan Bahadur B.M.Hegde, Chairman of the Reception Committee read his welcome address

Sami Venkatachalam Chetty delivered his

B 132

presidential Speech which was translated into Kanarese by Mr. Molahalli Shiva Rao.

The following resolutions were thereupon passed unanimously.

I. "That this Conference expresses its keen regret that at a time when there is such unprecedented economic distress, privation and misery prevailing amongst the agriculturists of this district the Government should, inspite of all representations, be still persisting in introducing Re-settlement in this district.

This Conference earnestly appeals to Government to drop all further re-settlement operations in the district until the present distress is well-tided over and the principles of Land revenue and Settlement are put on a statutory basis by the new legislatures which are shortly to come into being."

Proposed by Dr. K.Vittal Shetty,
Seconded by Mr. Shankernarayana Rao and
Supported by Mr. K.S.Adiga and Mr.
Kasargod Narasinga Nayak.

The resolution was put to vote and was carried unanimously.

II. That the present prices of rice which is the main agricultural produce of this district, are below even the commutation rate at the last settlement whilst the standard and cost of life and taxes in various shapes have gone up very much since the introduction of the

last settlement. The whole basis of the settlement has altogether failed in its practical application to the conditions now prevailing with the result that it has become impossible to pay the existing assessment in its entirety. This Conference therefore requests Government to remit at least 25 per cent of the assessment in the district in the current year failing which bankruptcy of the agriculturists is inevitable."

Proposed by Mr. Dharmasthal Manjaya Hegde,

Seconded by Mr. Mahamad Shamnad, M.L.C.

Supported by Mr. Gollerkeri Krishna Rao and Mr. Achinadka Nagappaya.

The resolution was put to vote and was carried unanimously.

III. "That whilst most civilised Governments are making herculean efforts to counteract the evil effects of the present depression, particularly amongst the agriculturist classes, by various means such as extension of credit, granting of subsidies, retrenchment in salaries and establishments and fixation of exchange, this Conference is pained and surprised to find that the Indian and the Provincial Governments are making no werious attempts whatever to do any of these things. Their main concern appears to be the collection of revenue at all costs whilst the Government's leech-like policy to the ratio of 1s. 6d. has gravely accentuated the present distress. This Conference, therefore, requests the Governments, Indian and Provincial, to take up the problems seriousl

and undertake real ameliorative measures and give immediate relief to the agriculturists."

Proposed by Mr, K.R.Achar, and
Seconded by Mr. U.C.S.Bhat, M.L.C.

The resolution was put to vote and was carried unanimously.

IV. "(a) That this Conference wholeheartedly supports the memorandum recently submitted by the Secretary of the Association to the Hon. The Law Member on the withdrawal of the forest concessions in the district and submits to Government that it is entirely erroneous to call the rights in question "concessions". They are really the immemorial rights and privileges of the land-holders of this district. The Conference therefore most emphatically submits that any infringement of the said rights will make cultivation in this district practically impossible. Whilst deploring the recent withdrawal of the "concessions" in some of the reserves and the threatened withdrawal in others this Conference requests Government to cancel the order of withdrawal at once.

"(b) This Conference views with alarm the attempts by the Forest Department to afforest fresh reserves near highly cultivated areas round about the village of Puncha in the Puttur Taluk. The Conference requests Government not to create fresh reserves in the district. On the other hand it requests Government to disafforest the coastal reserves and make lands

available for cultivation to the increasing population of the coastal parts of the district.

(c) This Conference desires to bring to the notice of the Government that great hardship is being caused to the ryots residing in the vicinity of the reserve forests of this district by entirely closing the reserves for grazing in case of accidental fires to the reserves for which the ryots are not responsible and by charging rent for channel water flowing from the reserves to lands under cultivation;

(d) This Conference submits to Government that on account of the increasing density and forest growth in the reserves, the areas available for grazing are becoming less and less. This Conference submits that the cattle in this district, particularly bovine, are small and puny compared with the cattle of the East-Coast districts. The grazing fees on the large number of cattle kept by a ryot mostly for purposes of manure or cultivation fall very heavily on the poor ryots. This Conference therefore requests Government to cancel the fees and make grazing totally free or at least to charge nominal fees.

(e) This Conference views with grave concern the solicitude of Government to preserve wild life in the province which in this district at any rate is causing irreparable hardship, loss and misery to human life, cattle and crops of the cultivaros of the district."

Proposed by Mr. J.A.Saldanha, Ex-M.L.C.,
Seconded by Rev. Father Siqueira, and
Supported by Mr. Brahmavar Thimmannachar,
Mr. Bellare Narayana Sheka, and
Mr. Kilar Ramachandraya.

The resolution was put to vote and was carried unanimously.

V. "(a) This Conference requests the M.L.Cs of the district to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Council to facilitate the easy collection of rents from tenants as the remedy of civil litigation is extremely tardy and ruinous to the landlord and the tenant.

(b) This Conference requests the M.L.Cs of the district and the President of this Conference to do their best in the matter of the above resolutions."

Proposed by Mr. Kasargod Narsing Nayak and
Seconded by Mr. N.S.Krishna Rao.

The resolution was put to vote and was carried unanimously.

The President concluded with his closing remarks.

Mr. K.R.Karant proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and to all persons who have taken such great interest in bringing the Conference to a successful conclusion. This was duly seconded by Mr. J.A.Saldanha and the meeting terminated.

(Sd) S.Venkatachalam Chetti.

True Copy)

K. R. Karant

Hon. Secretary, S.K.L.H.

Revenue Department.

Read:-

From M.R.Ry. K.R. Karant Avl., B.A.,L.L.B., Hon.Secy. The South Kanara Landholders' Association, Mangalore, Ref. No. 51 dated 13th December 1933.

I beg to submit herewith a true copy of the Proceedings of the First South Kanara Land-Holders' Conference held at Puttur on 3.12.1933, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, M.L.C. presiding and to request that Government may be pleased to take proper and speedy action on the resolutions contained therein.

U.O. Note No. 4831 33-1 dated 19th Decr. 1933.

Communicate IV and V.

J.A.Thorne,
Secretary to Govt.

To

Law
Dev.

Forwarded.

(By order,

Superintendent. 21/12/33

Proceedings of the First Conference of the Land-holders of South Kanara held at 5 P.M. of Sunday, the 3rd December 1933 in the premises of the Higher Elementary School at Puttur.

IV. "(a) That this Conference wholeheartedly supports the memorandum recently submitted by the Secretary of the Association to the Hon. The Law Member on the withdrawal of the forest concessions in the district and submits to Government that it is entirely erroneous to call the rights in question "concessions". They are really the immemorial rights and privileges of the land-holders of this district. The Conference therefore most emphatically submits that any infringement of the said rights will make cultivation in this district practically impossible. Whilst deploring the recent withdrawal of the 'concessions' in some of the reserves and the threatened withdrawal in others this Conference requests Government to cancel the order of withdrawal at once.

(b) This Conference views with alarm the attempts by the Forest department to afforest fresh reserves near highly cultivated areas round about the village of Puncha in the Puttur Taluk. The Conference requests Government not to create fresh reserves in the district. On the other hand it requests Government to disafforest the coastal reserves and make lands available for cultivation to the increasing population of the coastal parts of the district.

(c) This Conference desires to bring to the notice of the Government that great hardship is being caused to the ryots residing in the vicinity of the reserve forests of this district by entirely closing the reserves for grazing in case of accidental fires to the reserves for which the ryots are not responsible and by charging rent for channel water flowing from the reserves to lands under cultivation;

To 189

(d) This conference submits to Government that on account of the increasing density and forest growth in the reserves, the areas available for grazing are becoming less and less. This Conference submits that the cattle in this district, particularly bovine, are small and puny compared with the cattle of the East-Coast districts. The grazing fees on the large number of cattle kept by a ryot mostly for purposes of manure or cultivation fall very heavily on the poor ryots. This Conference therefore requests Government to cancel the fees and make grazing totally free or at least to charge nominal fees.

(e) This Conference views with grave concern the solicitude of Government to preserve wild life in the province which in this district at any rate is causing irreparable hardship, loss and misery to human life, cattle and crops of the cultivaros of the district."

The resolution was put to vote and was carried unanimously.

Letter No. 320/I/33-D/7th

To

M.R.Rs K.R. Karanth avl., Ba.Lls

Hon'l Secretary

The South Kanara

Landholders Association

Mangalore

Sir,

I am to acknowledge
receipt of your letter to the Hon.
the Law Member No. 52
Dated 13.12.33, forwarding
copy of the Proceedings of the
first South Kanara Landholders
Conference held at Puttur
on the 3rd Dec. 1933.

I have